

**AGREEMENT**

**by and between**

**NORTHSTAR TELECOM, INC.**

**and**

**VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC., D/B/A VERIZON MASSACHUSETTS**

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF**

**MASSACHUSETTS**

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## AGREEMENT

### PREFACE

This Agreement, including Amendment No. 1 (TRO Amendment) hereto ("Agreement") shall be deemed effective as of May 1, 2006 (the "Effective Date"), between Northstar Telecom, Inc. ("Northstar"), a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with offices at 1101 Hills Road, Fremont, NE 68025 and Verizon New England Inc., d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts ("Verizon"), a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York with offices at 185 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110 (Verizon and Northstar may be referred to hereinafter, each, individually as a "Party", and, collectively, as the "Parties").

### GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

In consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Agreement, and intending to be legally bound, pursuant to Section 252 of the Act, Verizon and Northstar hereby agree as follows:

#### 1. The Agreement

- 1.1 This Agreement includes: (a) the Principal Document (which shall be deemed to include Amendment No. 1 (TRO Amendment) hereto); (b) the Tariffs of each Party applicable to the Services that are offered for sale by it in the Principal Document (which Tariffs are incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement by reference); and, (c) an Order by a Party that has been accepted by the other Party.
- 1.2 Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Principal Document (including, but not limited to, the Pricing Attachment), conflicts among provisions in the Principal Document, Tariffs, and an Order by a Party that has been accepted by the other Party, shall be resolved in accordance with the following order of precedence, where the document identified in subsection "(a)" shall have the highest precedence: (a) the Principal Document; (b) the Tariffs; and, (c) an Order by a Party that has been accepted by the other Party. The fact that a provision appears in the Principal Document but not in a Tariff, or in a Tariff but not in the Principal Document, shall not be interpreted as, or deemed grounds for finding, a conflict for the purposes of this Section 1.2.
- 1.3 This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties on the subject matter hereof, and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous agreement, understanding, or representation, on the subject matter hereof, provided, however, notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement or otherwise, this Agreement is an amendment, extension and restatement of the Parties' prior interconnection and resale agreement(s), if any, and, as such, this Agreement is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed to create, a novation or accord and satisfaction with respect to any prior interconnection or resale agreements and, accordingly, all monetary obligations of the Parties to one another under any prior interconnection or resale agreements shall remain in full force and effect and shall constitute monetary obligations of the Parties under this Agreement (provided, however, that nothing contained in this Agreement shall convert any claim or debt that would otherwise constitute a prepetition claim or debt in a bankruptcy case into a postpetition claim or debt). In connection with the foregoing, Verizon expressly reserves all of its rights under the Bankruptcy Code and Applicable Law to seek or oppose any relief in respect of the assumption, assumption and assignment, or rejection of any interconnection or resale agreements between Verizon and Northstar.

- 1.4 Except as otherwise provided in the Principal Document, the Principal Document may not be waived or modified except by a written document that is signed by the Parties. Subject to the requirements of Applicable Law, a Party shall have the right to add, modify, or withdraw, its Tariff(s) at any time, without the consent of, or notice to, the other Party.

## **2. Term and Termination**

- 2.1 This Agreement shall be effective as of the Effective Date and, unless cancelled or terminated earlier in accordance with the terms hereof, shall continue in effect until April 30, 2008 (the "Initial Term"). Thereafter, this Agreement shall continue in force and effect unless and until cancelled or terminated as provided in this Agreement.
- 2.2 Either Northstar or Verizon may terminate this Agreement effective upon the expiration of the Initial Term or effective upon any date after expiration of the Initial Term by providing written notice of termination at least ninety (90) days in advance of the date of termination.
- 2.3 If either Northstar or Verizon provides notice of termination pursuant to Section 2.2 and on or before the proposed date of termination either Northstar or Verizon has requested negotiation of a new interconnection agreement, unless this Agreement is cancelled or terminated earlier in accordance with the terms hereof (including, but not limited to, pursuant to Section 12), this Agreement shall remain in effect until the earlier of: (a) the effective date of a new interconnection agreement between Northstar and Verizon; or, (b) the date one (1) year after the proposed date of termination.
- 2.4 If either Northstar or Verizon provides notice of termination pursuant to Section 2.2 and by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the proposed date of termination neither Northstar nor Verizon has requested negotiation of a new interconnection agreement, (a) this Agreement will terminate at 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the proposed date of termination, and (b) the Services being provided under this Agreement at the time of termination will be terminated, except to the extent that the Purchasing Party has requested that such Services continue to be provided pursuant to an applicable Tariff or Statement of Generally Available Terms (SGAT).

## **3. Glossary and Attachments**

The Glossary and the following Attachments are a part of this Agreement:

- Additional Services Attachment
- Interconnection Attachment
- Resale Attachment
- Network Elements Attachment
- Collocation Attachment
- 911 Attachment
- Pricing Attachment

## **4. Applicable Law**

- 4.1 The construction, interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by (a) the laws of the United States of America and (b) the laws of the



Commonwealth of Massachusetts, without regard to its conflicts of laws rules. All disputes relating to this Agreement shall be resolved through the application of such laws.

- 4.2 Each Party shall remain in compliance with Applicable Law in the course of performing this Agreement.
- 4.3 Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance by it that results from requirements of Applicable Law, or acts or failures to act of any governmental entity or official.
- 4.4 Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party in writing of any governmental action that limits, suspends, cancels, withdraws, or otherwise materially affects, the notifying Party's ability to perform its obligations under this Agreement.
- 4.5 If any provision of this Agreement shall be invalid or unenforceable under Applicable Law, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision of this Agreement, and this Agreement shall be construed as if it did not contain such invalid or unenforceable provision; provided, that if the invalid or unenforceable provision is a material provision of this Agreement, or the invalidity or unenforceability materially affects the rights or obligations of a Party hereunder or the ability of a Party to perform any material provision of this Agreement, the Parties shall promptly renegotiate in good faith and amend in writing this Agreement in order to make such mutually acceptable revisions to this Agreement as may be required in order to conform the Agreement to Applicable Law.
- 4.6 If any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other governmental decision, order, determination or action, or any change in Applicable Law, materially affects any material provision of this Agreement, the rights or obligations of a Party hereunder, or the ability of a Party to perform any material provision of this Agreement, the Parties shall promptly renegotiate in good faith and amend in writing this Agreement in order to make such mutually acceptable revisions to this Agreement as may be required in order to conform the Agreement to Applicable Law. If within thirty (30) days of the effective date of such decision, determination, action or change, the Parties are unable to agree in writing upon mutually acceptable revisions to this Agreement, either Party may pursue any remedies available to it under this Agreement, at law, in equity, or otherwise, including, but not limited to, instituting an appropriate proceeding before the Commission, the FCC, or a court of competent jurisdiction, without first pursuing dispute resolution in accordance with Section 14 of this Agreement.
- 4.7 Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, if, as a result of any legislative, judicial, regulatory or other governmental decision, order, determination or action, or any change in Applicable Law, Verizon is not required by Applicable Law to provide any Service, payment or benefit, otherwise required to be provided to Northstar hereunder, then Verizon may discontinue the provision of any such Service, payment or benefit, and Northstar shall reimburse Verizon for any payment previously made by Verizon to Northstar that was not required by Applicable Law. Verizon will provide thirty (30) days prior written notice to Northstar of any such discontinuance of a Service, unless a different notice period or different conditions are specified in this Agreement (including, but not limited to, in an applicable Tariff) or Applicable Law for termination of such Service in which event such specified period and/or conditions shall apply.

## **5. Assignment**

Neither Party may assign this Agreement or any right or interest under this Agreement, nor delegate any obligation under this Agreement, without the prior written consent of the other Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed. Any attempted assignment or delegation in violation of this Section 5 shall be void and ineffective and constitute default of this Agreement.

## **6. Assurance of Payment**

- 6.1 Upon request by Verizon, Northstar shall, at any time and from time to time, provide to Verizon adequate assurance of payment of amounts due (or to become due) to Verizon hereunder.
- 6.2 Assurance of payment of charges may be requested by Verizon if Northstar (a) prior to the Effective Date, has failed to timely pay a bill rendered to Northstar by Verizon or its Affiliates, (b) on or after the Effective Date, fails to timely pay a bill rendered to Northstar by Verizon or its Affiliates, (c) in Verizon's reasonable judgment, at the Effective Date or at any time thereafter, is unable to demonstrate that it is creditworthy, or (d) admits its inability to pay its debts as such debts become due, has commenced a voluntary case (or has had a case commenced against it) under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or any other law relating to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, winding-up, composition 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.
- 6.3 Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the assurance of payment shall consist of an unconditional, irrevocable standby letter of credit naming Verizon as the beneficiary thereof and otherwise in form and substance satisfactory to Verizon from a financial institution acceptable to Verizon. The letter of credit shall be in an amount equal to two (2) months anticipated charges (including, but not limited to, both recurring and non-recurring charges), as reasonably determined by Verizon, for the Services to be provided by Verizon to Northstar in connection with this Agreement. If Northstar meets the condition in subsection 6.2(d) above or has failed to timely pay two or more bills rendered by Verizon or a Verizon Affiliate in any twelve (12)-month period, Verizon may, at its option, demand (and Northstar shall provide) additional assurance of payment, consisting of monthly advanced payments of estimated charges as reasonably determined by Verizon, with appropriate true-up against actual billed charges no more frequently than once per Calendar Quarter.
- 6.4 [Intentionally Left Blank].
- 6.5 [Intentionally Left Blank].
- 6.6 Verizon may (but is not obligated to) draw on the letter of credit upon notice to Northstar in respect of any amounts to be paid by Northstar hereunder that are not paid within thirty (30) days of the date that payment of such amounts is required by this Agreement.
- 6.7 If Verizon draws on the letter of credit, upon request by Verizon, Northstar shall provide a replacement or supplemental letter of credit conforming to the requirements of Section 6.3.
- 6.8 Notwithstanding anything else set forth in this Agreement, if Verizon makes a request for assurance of payment in accordance with the terms of this Section, then Verizon shall have no obligation thereafter to perform under this Agreement until such time as Northstar has provided Verizon with such assurance of payment.

- 6.9 The fact that a letter of credit is requested by Verizon hereunder shall in no way relieve Northstar from compliance with the requirements of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, any applicable Tariffs) as to advance payments and payment for Services, nor constitute a waiver or modification of the terms herein pertaining to the discontinuance of Services for nonpayment of any amounts payment of which is required by this Agreement.

## **7. Audits**

- 7.1 Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, either Party ("Auditing Party") may audit the other Party's ("Audited Party") books, records, documents, facilities and systems for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of the Audited Party's bills. Such audits may be performed once in each Calendar Year; provided, however, that audits may be conducted more frequently (but no more frequently than once in each Calendar Quarter) if the immediately preceding audit found previously uncorrected net inaccuracies in billing in favor of the Audited Party having an aggregate value of at least \$1,000,000.
- 7.2 The audit shall be performed by independent certified public accountants selected and paid by the Auditing Party. The accountants shall be reasonably acceptable to the Audited Party. Prior to commencing the audit, the accountants shall execute an agreement with the Audited Party in a form reasonably acceptable to the Audited Party that protects the confidentiality of the information disclosed by the Audited Party to the accountants. The audit shall take place at a time and place agreed upon by the Parties; provided, that the Auditing Party may require that the audit commence no later than sixty (60) days after the Auditing Party has given notice of the audit to the Audited Party.
- 7.3 Each Party shall cooperate fully in any such audit, providing reasonable access to any and all employees, books, records, documents, facilities and systems, reasonably necessary to assess the accuracy of the Audited Party's bills.
- 7.4 Audits shall be performed at the Auditing Party's expense, provided that there shall be no charge for reasonable access to the Audited Party's employees, books, records, documents, facilities and systems necessary to assess the accuracy of the Audited Party's bills.

## **8. Authorization**

- 8.1 Verizon represents and warrants that it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of New York and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations under this Agreement.
- 8.2 Northstar represents and warrants that it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Nebraska, and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations under this Agreement.
- 8.3 Northstar Certification.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, Verizon shall have no obligation to perform under this Agreement until such time as Northstar has obtained such FCC and Commission authorization as may be required by Applicable Law for conducting business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Northstar shall not place any Orders under this Agreement until it has obtained

such authorization. Northstar shall provide proof of such authorization to Verizon upon request.

## **9. Billing and Payment; Disputed Amounts**

- 9.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Party shall submit to the other Party on a monthly basis in an itemized form, statement(s) of charges incurred by the other Party under this Agreement.
- 9.2 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, payment of amounts billed for Services provided under this Agreement, whether billed on a monthly basis or as otherwise provided in this Agreement, shall be due, in immediately available U.S. funds, on the later of the following dates (the "Due Date"): (a) the due date specified on the billing Party's statement; or (b) twenty (20) days after the date the statement is received by the billed Party. Payments shall be transmitted by electronic funds transfer.
- 9.3 If any portion of an amount billed by a Party under this Agreement is subject to a good faith dispute between the Parties, the billed Party shall give notice to the billing Party of the amounts it disputes ("Disputed Amounts") and include in such notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item. A Party may also dispute prospectively with a single notice a class of charges that it disputes. Notice of a dispute may be given by a Party at any time, either before or after an amount is paid, and a Party's payment of an amount shall not constitute a waiver of such Party's right to subsequently dispute its obligation to pay such amount or to seek a refund of any amount paid. The billed Party shall pay by the Due Date all undisputed amounts. Billing disputes shall be subject to the terms of Section 14, Dispute Resolution.
- 9.4 Charges due to the billing Party that are not paid by the Due Date, shall be subject to a late payment charge. The late payment charge shall be in an amount specified by the billing Party which shall not exceed a rate of one-and-one-half percent (1.5%) of the overdue amount (including any unpaid previously billed late payment charges) per month.
- 9.5 Although it is the intent of both Parties to submit timely statements of charges, failure by either Party to present statements to the other Party in a timely manner shall not constitute a breach or default, or a waiver of the right to payment of the incurred charges, by the billing Party under this Agreement, and, except for assertion of a provision of Applicable Law that limits the period in which a suit or other proceeding can be brought before a court or other governmental entity of appropriate jurisdiction to collect amounts due, the billed Party shall not be entitled to dispute the billing Party's statement(s) based on the billing Party's failure to submit them in a timely fashion.

## **10. Confidentiality**

- 10.1 As used in this Section 10, "Confidential Information" means the following information that is disclosed by one Party ("Disclosing Party") to the other Party ("Receiving Party") in connection with, or anticipation of, this Agreement:
- 10.1.1 Books, records, documents and other information disclosed in an audit pursuant to Section 7;
- 10.1.2 Any forecasting information provided pursuant to this Agreement;

- 10.1.3 Customer Information (except to the extent that (a) the Customer information is published in a directory, (b) the Customer information is disclosed through or in the course of furnishing a Telecommunications Service, such as directory assistance service, operator service, Caller ID or similar service, or LIDB service, or (c) the Customer to whom the Customer Information is related has authorized the Receiving Party to use and/or disclose the Customer Information);
- 10.1.4 information related to specific facilities or equipment (including, but not limited to, cable and pair information);
- 10.1.5 any information that is in written, graphic, electromagnetic, or other tangible form, and marked at the time of disclosure as "Confidential" or "Proprietary;" and
- 10.1.6 any information that is communicated orally or visually and declared to the Receiving Party at the time of disclosure, and by written notice with a statement of the information given to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days after disclosure, to be "Confidential or "Proprietary".

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, a Party shall have the right to refuse to accept receipt of information which the other Party has identified as Confidential Information pursuant to Sections 10.1.5 or 10.1.6.

- 10.2 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the Receiving Party shall:
  - 10.2.1 use the Confidential Information received from the Disclosing Party only in performance of this Agreement; and
  - 10.2.2 using the same degree of care that it uses with similar confidential information of its own (but in no case a degree of care that is less than commercially reasonable), hold Confidential Information received from the Disclosing Party in confidence and restrict disclosure of the Confidential Information solely to those of the Receiving Party's Affiliates and the directors, officers, employees, Agents and contractors of the Receiving Party and the Receiving Party's Affiliates, that have a need to receive such Confidential Information in order to perform the Receiving Party's obligations under this Agreement. The Receiving Party's Affiliates and the directors, officers, employees, Agents and contractors of the Receiving Party and the Receiving Party's Affiliates, shall be required by the Receiving Party to comply with the provisions of this Section 10 in the same manner as the Receiving Party. The Receiving Party shall be liable for any failure of the Receiving Party's Affiliates or the directors, officers, employees, Agents or contractors of the Receiving Party or the Receiving Party's Affiliates, to comply with the provisions of this Section 10.
- 10.3 The Receiving Party shall return or destroy all Confidential Information received from the Disclosing Party, including any copies made by the Receiving Party, within thirty (30) days after a written request by the Disclosing Party is delivered to the Receiving Party, except for (a) Confidential Information that the Receiving Party reasonably requires to perform its obligations under this Agreement, and (b) one copy for archival purposes only.
- 10.4 Unless otherwise agreed, the obligations of Sections 10.2 and 10.3 do not apply to information that:

- 10.4.1 was, at the time of receipt, already in the possession of or known to the Receiving Party free of any obligation of confidentiality and restriction on use;
  - 10.4.2 is or becomes publicly available or known through no wrongful act of the Receiving Party, the Receiving Party's Affiliates, or the directors, officers, employees, Agents or contractors of the Receiving Party or the Receiving Party's Affiliates;
  - 10.4.3 is rightfully received from a third person having no direct or indirect obligation of confidentiality or restriction on use to the Disclosing Party with respect to such information;
  - 10.4.4 is independently developed by the Receiving Party;
  - 10.4.5 is approved for disclosure or use by written authorization of the Disclosing Party (including, but not limited to, in this Agreement); or
  - 10.4.6 is required to be disclosed by the Receiving Party pursuant to Applicable Law, provided that the Receiving Party shall have made commercially reasonable efforts to give adequate notice of the requirement to the Disclosing Party in order to enable the Disclosing Party to seek protective arrangements.
- 10.5 Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 10.1 through 10.4, the Receiving Party may use and disclose Confidential Information received from the Disclosing Party to the extent necessary to enforce the Receiving Party's rights under this Agreement or Applicable Law. In making any such disclosure, the Receiving Party shall make reasonable efforts to preserve the confidentiality and restrict the use of the Confidential Information while it is in the possession of any person to whom it is disclosed, including, but not limited to, by requesting any governmental entity to whom the Confidential Information is disclosed to treat it as confidential and restrict its use to purposes related to the proceeding pending before it.
- 10.6 The Disclosing Party shall retain all of the Disclosing Party's right, title and interest in any Confidential Information disclosed by the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no license is granted by this Agreement with respect to any Confidential Information (including, but not limited to, under any patent, trademark or copyright), nor is any such license to be implied solely by virtue of the disclosure of Confidential Information.
- 10.7 The provisions of this Section 10 shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any provisions of Applicable Law, including, but not limited to, 47 U.S.C. § 222, and are not intended to constitute a waiver by a Party of any right with regard to the use, or protection of the confidentiality of, CPNI provided by Applicable Law.
- 10.8 Each Party's obligations under this Section 10 shall survive expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement.

## **11. Counterparts**

This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

## **12. Default**

If either Party ("Defaulting Party") fails to make a payment required by this Agreement (including, but not limited to, any payment required by Section 9.3 of undisputed amounts to the billing Party) or materially breaches any other material provision of this Agreement, and such failure or breach continues for thirty (30) days after written notice thereof from the other Party, the other Party may, by written notice to the Defaulting Party, (a) suspend the provision of any or all Services hereunder, or (b) cancel this Agreement and terminate the provision of all Services hereunder.

## **13. Discontinuance of Service by Northstar**

- 13.1 If Northstar proposes to discontinue, or actually discontinues, its provision of service to all or substantially all of its Customers, whether voluntarily, as a result of bankruptcy, or for any other reason, Northstar shall send written notice of such discontinuance to Verizon, the Commission, and each of Northstar's Customers. Northstar shall provide such notice such number of days in advance of discontinuance of its service as shall be required by Applicable Law. Unless the period for advance notice of discontinuance of service required by Applicable Law is more than thirty (30) days, to the extent commercially feasible, Northstar shall send such notice at least thirty (30) days prior to its discontinuance of service.
- 13.2 Such notice must advise each Northstar Customer that unless action is taken by the Northstar Customer to switch to a different carrier prior to Northstar's proposed discontinuance of service, the Northstar Customer will be without the service provided by Northstar to the Northstar Customer.
- 13.3 Should a Northstar Customer subsequently become a Verizon Customer, Northstar shall provide Verizon with all information necessary for Verizon to establish service for the Northstar Customer, including, but not limited to, the Northstar Customer's billed name, listed name, service address, and billing address, and the services being provided to the Northstar Customer.
- 13.4 Nothing in this Section 13 shall limit Verizon's right to cancel or terminate this Agreement or suspend provision of Services under this Agreement.

## **14. Dispute Resolution**

- 14.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, any dispute between the Parties regarding the interpretation or enforcement of this Agreement or any of its terms shall be addressed by good faith negotiation between the Parties. To initiate such negotiation, a Party must provide to the other Party written notice of the dispute that includes both a detailed description of the dispute or alleged nonperformance and the name of an individual who will serve as the initiating Party's representative in the negotiation. The other Party shall have ten Business Days to designate its own representative in the negotiation. The Parties' representatives shall meet at least once within 45 days after the date of the initiating Party's written notice in an attempt to reach a good faith resolution of the dispute. Upon agreement, the Parties' representatives may utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as private mediation to assist in the negotiations.
- 14.2 If the Parties have been unable to resolve the dispute within 45 days of the date of the initiating Party's written notice, either Party may pursue any remedies available to it under this Agreement, at law, in equity, or otherwise, including, but

not limited to, instituting an appropriate proceeding before the Commission, the FCC, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

## **15. Force Majeure**

- 15.1 Neither Party shall be responsible for any delay or failure in performance which results from causes beyond its reasonable control ("Force Majeure Events"), whether or not foreseeable by such Party. Such Force Majeure Events include, but are not limited to, adverse weather conditions, flood, fire, explosion, earthquake, volcanic action, power failure, embargo, boycott, war, revolution, civil commotion, act of public enemies, labor unrest (including, but not limited to, strikes, work stoppages, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts), inability to obtain equipment, parts, software or repairs thereof, acts or omissions of the other Party, and acts of God.
- 15.2 If a Force Majeure Event occurs, the non-performing Party shall give prompt notification of its inability to perform to the other Party. During the period that the non-performing Party is unable to perform, the other Party shall also be excused from performance of its obligations to the extent such obligations are reciprocal to, or depend upon, the performance of the non-performing Party that has been prevented by the Force Majeure Event. The non-performing Party shall use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid or remove the cause(s) of its non-performance and both Parties shall proceed to perform once the cause(s) are removed or cease.
- 15.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 15.1 and 15.2, in no case shall a Force Majeure Event excuse either Party from an obligation to pay money as required by this Agreement.
- 15.4 Nothing in this Agreement shall require the non-performing Party to settle any labor dispute except as the non-performing Party, in its sole discretion, determines appropriate.

## **16. Forecasts**

In addition to any other forecasts required by this Agreement, upon request by Verizon, Northstar shall provide to Verizon forecasts regarding the Services that Northstar expects to purchase from Verizon, including, but not limited to, forecasts regarding the types and volumes of Services that Northstar expects to purchase and the locations where such Services will be purchased.

## **17. Fraud**

Northstar assumes responsibility for all fraud associated with its Customers and accounts. Verizon shall bear no responsibility for, and shall have no obligation to investigate or make adjustments to Northstar's account in cases of, fraud by Northstar's Customers or other third parties.

## **18. Good Faith Performance**

The Parties shall act in good faith in their performance of this Agreement. Except as otherwise expressly stated in this Agreement (including, but not limited to, where consent, approval, agreement or a similar action is stated to be within a Party's sole discretion), where consent, approval, mutual agreement or a similar action is required by any provision of this Agreement, such action shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed. If and, to the extent that, Verizon, prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement, has not provided in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a Service



offered under this Agreement, Verizon reserves the right to negotiate in good faith with Northstar reasonable terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes) for such Service; and, if the Parties cannot agree to such terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes), either Party may utilize the Agreement's dispute resolution procedures.

## **19. Headings**

The headings used in the Principal Document are inserted for convenience of reference only and are not intended to be a part of or to affect the meaning of the Principal Document.

## **20. Indemnification**

20.1 Each Party ("Indemnifying Party") shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the other Party ("Indemnified Party"), the Indemnified Party's Affiliates, and the directors, officers and employees of the Indemnified Party and the Indemnified Party's Affiliates, from and against any and all Claims that arise out of bodily injury to or death of any person, or damage to, or destruction or loss of, tangible real and/or personal property of any person, to the extent such injury, death, damage, destruction or loss, was proximately caused by the grossly negligent or intentionally wrongful acts or omissions of the Indemnifying Party, the Indemnifying Party's Affiliates, or the directors, officers, employees, Agents or contractors (excluding the Indemnified Party) of the Indemnifying Party or the Indemnifying Party's Affiliates, in connection with this Agreement.

20.2 Indemnification Process.

20.2.1 As used in this Section 20, "Indemnified Person" means a person whom an Indemnifying Party is obligated to indemnify, defend and/or hold harmless under Section 20.1.

20.2.2 An Indemnifying Party's obligations under Section 20.1 shall be conditioned upon the following:

20.2.3 The Indemnified Person: (a) shall give the Indemnifying Party notice of the Claim promptly after becoming aware thereof (including a statement of facts known to the Indemnified Person related to the Claim and an estimate of the amount thereof); (b) prior to taking any material action with respect to a Third Party Claim, shall consult with the Indemnifying Party as to the procedure to be followed in defending, settling, or compromising the Claim; (c) shall not consent to any settlement or compromise of a Third Party Claim without the written consent of the Indemnifying Party; (d) shall permit the Indemnifying Party to assume the defense of a Third Party Claim (including, except as provided below, the compromise or settlement thereof) at the Indemnifying Party's own cost and expense, provided, however, that the Indemnified Person shall have the right to approve the Indemnifying Party's choice of legal counsel.

20.2.4 If the Indemnified Person fails to comply with Section 20.2.3 with respect to a Claim, to the extent such failure shall have a material adverse effect upon the Indemnifying Party, the Indemnifying Party shall be relieved of its obligation to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Indemnified Person with respect to such Claim under this Agreement.

- 20.2.5 Subject to 20.2.6 and 20.2.7, below, the Indemnifying Party shall have the authority to defend and settle any Third Party Claim.
- 20.2.6 With respect to any Third Party Claim, the Indemnified Person shall be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in the defense of the Claim if the Claim requests equitable relief or other relief that could affect the rights of the Indemnified Person. In so participating, the Indemnified Person shall be entitled to employ separate counsel for the defense at the Indemnified Person's expense. The Indemnified Person shall also be entitled to participate, at its own expense, in the defense of any Claim, as to any portion of the Claim as to which it is not entitled to be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the Indemnifying Party.
- 20.2.7 In no event shall the Indemnifying Party settle a Third Party Claim or consent to any judgment with regard to a Third Party Claim without the prior written consent of the Indemnified Party, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed. In the event the settlement or judgment requires a contribution from or affects the rights of an Indemnified Person, the Indemnified Person shall have the right to refuse such settlement or judgment with respect to itself and, at its own cost and expense, take over the defense against the Third Party Claim, provided that in such event the Indemnifying Party shall not be responsible for, nor shall it be obligated to indemnify or hold harmless the Indemnified Person against, the Third Party Claim for any amount in excess of such refused settlement or judgment.
- 20.2.8 The Indemnified Person shall, in all cases, assert any and all provisions in applicable Tariffs and Customer contracts that limit liability to third persons as a bar to, or limitation on, any recovery by a third-person claimant.
- 20.2.9 The Indemnifying Party and the Indemnified Person shall offer each other all reasonable cooperation and assistance in the defense of any Third Party Claim.
- 20.3 Each Party agrees that it will not implead or bring any action against the other Party, the other Party's Affiliates, or any of the directors, officers or employees of the other Party or the other Party's Affiliates, based on any claim by any person for personal injury or death that occurs in the course or scope of employment of such person by the other Party or the other Party's Affiliate and that arises out of performance of this Agreement.
- 20.4 Each Party's obligations under this Section 20 shall survive expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement.

## **21. Insurance**

- 21.1 Northstar shall maintain during the term of this Agreement and for a period of two years thereafter all insurance and/or bonds required to satisfy its obligations under this Agreement (including, but not limited to, its obligations set forth in Section 20 hereof) and all insurance and/or bonds required by Applicable Law. The insurance and/or bonds shall be obtained from an insurer having an A.M. Best insurance rating of at least A-, financial size category VII or greater. At a minimum and without limiting the foregoing undertaking, Northstar shall maintain the following insurance:

- 21.1.1 Commercial General Liability Insurance, on an occurrence basis, including but not limited to, premises-operations, broad form property damage, products/completed operations, contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal injury, with limits of at least \$2,000,000 combined single limit for each occurrence.
  - 21.1.2 Commercial Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles, with limits of at least \$2,000,000 combined single limit for each occurrence.
  - 21.1.3 Excess Liability Insurance, in the umbrella form, with limits of at least \$10,000,000 combined single limit for each occurrence.
  - 21.1.4 Worker's Compensation Insurance as required by Applicable Law and Employer's Liability Insurance with limits of not less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence.
  - 21.1.5 All risk property insurance on a full replacement cost basis for all of Northstar's real and personal property located at any Collocation site or otherwise located on or in any Verizon premises (whether owned, leased or otherwise occupied by Verizon), facility, equipment or right-of-way.
- 21.2 Any deductibles, self-insured retentions or loss limits ("Retentions") for the foregoing insurance must be disclosed on the certificates of insurance to be provided to Verizon pursuant to Sections 21.4 and 21.5, and Verizon reserves the right to reject any such Retentions in its reasonable discretion. All Retentions shall be the responsibility of Northstar.
- 21.3 Northstar shall name Verizon and Verizon's Affiliates as additional insureds on the foregoing liability insurance.
- 21.4 Northstar shall, within two (2) weeks of the Effective Date hereof at the time of each renewal of, or material change in, Northstar's insurance policies, and at such other times as Verizon may reasonably specify, furnish certificates or other proof of the foregoing insurance reasonably acceptable to Verizon. The certificates or other proof of the foregoing insurance shall be sent to: Director-Negotiations, Verizon Partner Solutions, 600 Hidden Ridge, HQEWMNOTICES, Irving, TX 75038.
- 21.5 Northstar shall require its contractors, if any, that may enter upon the premises or access the facilities or equipment of Verizon or Verizon's affiliates to maintain insurance in accordance with Sections 21.1 through 21.3 and, if requested, to furnish Verizon certificates or other adequate proof of such insurance acceptable to Verizon in accordance with Section 21.4.
- 21.6 If Northstar or Northstar's contractors fail to maintain insurance as required in Sections 21.1 through 21.5, above, Verizon may (but shall not be obligated to) purchase such insurance and Northstar shall reimburse Verizon for the cost of the insurance.
- 21.7 Certificates furnished by Northstar or Northstar's contractors shall contain a clause stating: "Verizon New England Inc., d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts shall be notified in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to cancellation of, or any material change in, the insurance."

## **22. Intellectual Property**

- 22.1 Except as expressly stated in this Agreement, this Agreement shall not be construed as granting a license with respect to any patent, copyright, trade name, trademark, service mark, trade secret or any other intellectual property, now or hereafter owned, controlled or licensable by either Party. Except as expressly stated in this Agreement, neither Party may use any patent, copyrightable materials, trademark, trade name, trade secret or other intellectual property right, of the other Party except in accordance with the terms of a separate license agreement between the Parties granting such rights.
- 22.2 Except as stated in Section 22.4, neither Party shall have any obligation to defend, indemnify or hold harmless, or acquire any license or right for the benefit of, or owe any other obligation or have any liability to, the other Party or its Affiliates or Customers based on or arising from any Third Party Claim alleging or asserting that the provision or use of any service, facility, arrangement, or software by either Party under this Agreement, or the performance of any service or method, either alone or in combination with the other Party, constitutes direct, vicarious or contributory infringement or inducement to infringe, or misuse or misappropriation of any patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, or any other proprietary or intellectual property right of any Party or third person. Each Party, however, shall offer to the other reasonable cooperation and assistance in the defense of any such claim.
- 22.3 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES AGREE THAT NEITHER PARTY HAS MADE, AND THAT THERE DOES NOT EXIST, ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, THAT THE USE BY EACH PARTY OF THE OTHER'S SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT SHALL NOT GIVE RISE TO A CLAIM OF INFRINGEMENT, MISUSE, OR MISAPPROPRIATION OF ANY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT.
- 22.4 Northstar agrees that the Services provided by Verizon hereunder shall be subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions contained in any applicable agreements (including, but not limited to software or other intellectual property license agreements) between Verizon and Verizon's vendors. Verizon agrees to advise Northstar, directly or through a third party, of any such terms, conditions or restrictions that may limit any Northstar use of a Service provided by Verizon that is otherwise permitted by this Agreement. At Northstar's written request, to the extent required by Applicable Law, Verizon will use Verizon's best efforts, as commercially practicable, to obtain intellectual property rights from Verizon's vendor to allow Northstar to use the Service in the same manner as Verizon that are coextensive with Verizon's intellectual property rights, on terms and conditions that are equal in quality to the terms and conditions under which Verizon has obtained Verizon's intellectual property rights. Northstar shall reimburse Verizon for the cost of obtaining such rights.

## **23. Joint Work Product**

The Principal Document is the joint work product of the Parties, has been negotiated by the Parties, and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms. In the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

## **24. Law Enforcement**

- 24.1 Each Party may cooperate with law enforcement authorities and national security authorities to the full extent required or permitted by Applicable Law in matters related to Services provided by it under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, the production of records, the establishment of new lines or the installation of

new services on an existing line in order to support law enforcement and/or national security operations, and, the installation of wiretaps, trap-and-trace facilities and equipment, and dialed number recording facilities and equipment.

- 24.2 A Party shall not have the obligation to inform the other Party or the Customers of the other Party of actions taken in cooperating with law enforcement or national security authorities, except to the extent required by Applicable Law.
- 24.3 Where a law enforcement or national security request relates to the establishment of lines (including, but not limited to, lines established to support interception of communications on other lines), or the installation of other services, facilities or arrangements, a Party may act to prevent the other Party from obtaining access to information concerning such lines, services, facilities and arrangements, through operations support system interfaces.

## **25. Liability**

- 25.1 As used in this Section 25, "Service Failure" means a failure to comply with a direction to install, restore or terminate Services under this Agreement, a failure to provide Services under this Agreement, and failures, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors, defects or the like, occurring in the course of the provision of any Services under this Agreement.
- 25.2 Except as otherwise stated in Section 25.5, the liability, if any, of a Party, a Party's Affiliates, and the directors, officers and employees of a Party and a Party's Affiliates, to the other Party, the other Party's Customers, and to any other person, for Claims arising out of a Service Failure shall not exceed an amount equal to the pro rata applicable monthly charge for the Services that are subject to the Service Failure for the period in which such Service Failure occurs.
- 25.3 Except as otherwise stated in Section 25.5, a Party, a Party's Affiliates, and the directors, officers and employees of a Party and a Party's Affiliates, shall not be liable to the other Party, the other Party's Customers, or to any other person, in connection with this Agreement (including, but not limited to, in connection with a Service Failure or any breach, delay or failure in performance, of this Agreement) for special, indirect, incidental, consequential, reliance, exemplary, punitive, or like damages, including, but not limited to, damages for lost revenues, profits or savings, or other commercial or economic loss, even if the person whose liability is excluded by this Section has been advised of the possibility of such damages.
- 25.4 The limitations and exclusions of liability stated in Sections 25.1 through 25.3 shall apply regardless of the form of a claim or action, whether statutory, in contract, warranty, strict liability, tort (including, but not limited to, negligence of a Party), or otherwise.
- 25.5 Nothing contained in Sections 25.1 through 25.4 shall exclude or limit liability:
  - 25.5.1 under Sections 20, Indemnification, or 41, Taxes.
  - 25.5.2 for any obligation to indemnify, defend and/or hold harmless that a Party may have under this Agreement.
  - 25.5.3 for damages arising out of or resulting from bodily injury to or death of any person, or damage to, or destruction or loss of, tangible real and/or personal property of any person, or Toxic or Hazardous Substances, to the extent such damages are otherwise recoverable under Applicable Law;

- 25.5.4 for a claim for infringement of any patent, copyright, trade name, trade mark, service mark, or other intellectual property interest;
  - 25.5.5 under Section 258 of the Act or any order of FCC or the Commission implementing Section 258; or
  - 25.5.6 under the financial incentive or remedy provisions of any service quality plan required by the FCC or the Commission.
- 25.6 In the event that the liability of a Party, a Party's Affiliate, or a director, officer or employee of a Party or a Party's Affiliate, is limited and/or excluded under both this Section 25 and a provision of an applicable Tariff, the liability of the Party or other person shall be limited to the smaller of the amounts for which such Party or other person would be liable under this Section or the Tariff provision.
- 25.7 Each Party shall, in its tariffs and other contracts with its Customers, provide that in no case shall the other Party, the other Party's Affiliates, or the directors, officers or employees of the other Party or the other Party's Affiliates, be liable to such Customers or other third-persons for any special, indirect, incidental, consequential, reliance, exemplary, punitive or other damages, arising out of a Service Failure.

## **26. Network Management**

- 26.1 Cooperation. The Parties will work cooperatively in a commercially reasonable manner to install and maintain a reliable network. Northstar and Verizon will exchange appropriate information (e.g., network information, maintenance contact numbers, escalation procedures, and information required to comply with requirements of law enforcement and national security agencies) to achieve this desired reliability. In addition, the Parties will work cooperatively in a commercially reasonable manner to apply sound network management principles to alleviate or to prevent traffic congestion and subject to Section 17, to minimize fraud associated with third number billed calls, calling card calls, and other services related to this Agreement.
- 26.2 Responsibility for Following Standards. Each Party recognizes a responsibility to follow the standards that may be agreed to between the Parties and to employ characteristics and methods of operation that will not interfere with or impair the service, network or facilities of the other Party or any third parties connected with or involved directly in the network or facilities of the other.
- 26.3 Interference or Impairment. If a Party ("Impaired Party") reasonably determines that the services, network, facilities, or methods of operation, of the other Party ("Interfering Party") will or are likely to interfere with or impair the Impaired Party's provision of services or the operation of the Impaired Party's network or facilities, the Impaired Party may interrupt or suspend any Service provided to the Interfering Party to the extent necessary to prevent such interference or impairment, subject to the following:
- 26.3.1 Except in emergency situations (e.g., situations involving a risk of bodily injury to persons or damage to tangible property, or an interruption in Customer service) or as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the Impaired Party shall have given the Interfering Party at least ten (10) days' prior written notice of the interference or impairment or potential interference or impairment and the need to correct the condition within said time period; and taken other actions, if any, required by Applicable Law; and,

26.3.2 Upon correction of the interference or impairment, the Impaired Party will promptly restore the interrupted or suspended Service. The Impaired Party shall not be obligated to provide an out-of-service credit allowance or other compensation to the Interfering Party in connection with the suspended Service.

26.4 Outage Repair Standard. In the event of an outage or trouble in any Service being provided by a Party hereunder, the Providing Party will follow Verizon's standard procedures for isolating and clearing the outage or trouble.

## 27. Non-Exclusive Remedies

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, each of the remedies provided under this Agreement is cumulative and is in addition to any other remedies that may be available under this Agreement or at law or in equity.

## 28. Notice of Network Changes

If a Party makes a change in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of services using that Party's facilities or network, or any other change in its facilities or network that will materially affect the interoperability of its facilities or network with the other Party's facilities or network, the Party making the change shall publish notice of the change at least ninety (90) days in advance of such change, and shall use reasonable efforts, as commercially practicable, to publish such notice at least one hundred eighty (180) days in advance of the change; provided, however, that if an earlier publication of notice of a change is required by Applicable Law (including, but not limited to, 47 CFR 51.325 through 51.335) notice shall be given at the time required by Applicable Law.

## 29. Notices

29.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement:

29.1.1 shall be in writing;

29.1.2 shall be delivered (a) personally, (b) by express delivery service with next Business Day delivery, (c) by first class, certified or registered U.S. mail, postage prepaid, or (d) by facsimile telecopy, with a copy delivered in accordance with (a), (b) or (c), preceding; and

29.1.3 shall be delivered to the following addresses of the Parties:

To Northstar:

Matt O'Flaherty  
President  
1101 Hills Road  
Fremont, NE 68025  
Telephone Number: (402) 753-0057, Ext.: Not Provided  
Facsimile Number: (800) 215-7521  
Internet Address: matto@northstartelecom.us

To Verizon:

Director-Negotiations  
Verizon Partner Solutions  
600 Hidden Ridge  
HQEWMNOTICES  
Irving, TX 75038  
Facsimile Number: (972) 719-1519  
Internet Address: wmnotices@verizon.com

with a copy to:

Vice President and Deputy General Counsel  
Verizon Partner Solutions  
1515 North Court House Road  
Suite 500  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Facsimile: (703) 351-3664

or to such other address as either Party shall designate by proper notice.

Notices will be deemed given as of the earlier of (a) where there is personal delivery of the notice, the date of actual receipt, (b) where the notice is sent via express delivery service for next Business Day delivery, the next Business Day after the notice is sent, (c) where the notice is sent via First Class U.S. Mail, three (3) Business Days after mailing, (d) where notice is sent via certified or registered U.S. mail, the date of receipt shown on the Postal Service receipt, and (e) where the notice is sent via facsimile telecopy, if the notice is sent on a Business Day and before 5 PM. in the time zone where it is received, on the date set forth on the telecopy confirmation, or if the notice is sent on a non-Business Day or if the notice is sent after 5 PM in the time zone where it is received, the next Business Day after the date set forth on the telecopy confirmation.

### **30. Ordering and Maintenance**

Northstar shall use Verizon's electronic Operations Support System access platforms to submit Orders and requests for maintenance and repair of Services, and to engage in other pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair transactions. If Verizon has not yet deployed an electronic capability for Northstar to perform a pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance or repair, transaction offered by Verizon, Northstar shall use such other processes as Verizon 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).

### **31. Performance Standards**

31.1 Verizon shall provide Services under this Agreement in accordance with the performance standards required by Applicable Law, including, but not limited to, Section 251(c) of the Act.

31.2 Northstar shall provide Services under this Agreement in accordance with the performance standards required by Applicable Law.

### **32. Point of Contact for Northstar Customers**

32.1 Northstar shall establish telephone numbers and mailing addresses at which Northstar Customers may communicate with Northstar and shall advise Northstar Customers of these telephone numbers and mailing addresses.



- 32.2 Except as otherwise agreed to by Verizon, Verizon shall have no obligation, and may decline, to accept a communication from a Northstar Customer, including, but not limited to, a Northstar Customer request for repair or maintenance of a Verizon Service provided to Northstar.

### **33. Predecessor Agreements**

- 33.1 Except as stated in Section 33.2 or as otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties:
- 33.1.1 Further to the provisions of Section 1 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement, any prior interconnection or resale agreement between the Parties for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pursuant to Section 252 of the Act and in effect prior to the Effective Date is hereby amended, extended and restated; and
  - 33.1.2 any Services that were purchased by one Party from the other Party under a prior interconnection or resale agreement between the Parties for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pursuant to Section 252 of the Act and in effect prior to the Effective Date, shall as of the Effective Date be subject to and purchased under this Agreement.
- 33.2 Except as otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties, if a Service purchased by a Party under a prior interconnection or resale agreement between the Parties pursuant to Section 252 of the Act was subject to a contractual commitment that it would be purchased for a period of longer than one month, and such period had not yet expired as of the Effective Date and the Service had not been terminated prior to the Effective Date, to the extent not inconsistent with this Agreement, such commitment shall remain in effect and the Service will be purchased under this Agreement; provided, that if this Agreement would materially alter the terms of the commitment, either Party may elect to cancel the commitment.
- 33.3 If either Party elects to cancel the commitment pursuant to the proviso in Section 33.2, the Purchasing Party shall not be liable for any termination charge that would otherwise have applied. However, if the commitment was cancelled by the Purchasing Party, the Providing Party shall be entitled to payment from the Purchasing Party of the difference between the price of the Service that was actually paid by the Purchasing Party under the commitment and the price of the Service that would have applied if the commitment had been to purchase the Service only until the time that the commitment was cancelled.

### **34. Publicity and Use of Trademarks or Service Marks**

- 34.1 A Party, its Affiliates, and their respective contractors and Agents, shall not use the other Party's trademarks, service marks, logos or other proprietary trade dress, in connection with the sale of products or services, or in any advertising, press releases, publicity matters or other promotional materials, unless the other Party has given its written consent for such use, which consent the other Party may grant or withhold in its sole discretion.
- 34.2 Neither Party may imply any direct or indirect affiliation with or sponsorship or endorsement of it or its services or products by the other Party.
- 34.3 Any violation of this Section 34 shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement.

### **35. References**

- 35.1 All references to Sections, Appendices and Exhibits shall be deemed to be references to Sections, Appendices and Exhibits of this Agreement unless the context shall otherwise require.
- 35.2 Unless the context shall otherwise require, any reference to a Tariff, agreement, technical or other document (including Verizon or third party guides, practices or handbooks), or provision of Applicable Law, is to such Tariff, agreement, document, or provision of Applicable Law, as amended and supplemented from time to time (and, in the case of a Tariff or provision of Applicable Law, to any successor Tariff or provision).

**36. Relationship of the Parties**

- 36.1 The relationship of the Parties under this Agreement shall be that of independent contractors and nothing herein shall be construed as creating any other relationship between the Parties.
- 36.2 Nothing contained in this Agreement shall make either Party the employee of the other, create a partnership, joint venture, or other similar relationship between the Parties, or grant to either Party a franchise, distributorship or similar interest.
- 36.3 Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another Party, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a Party as a legal representative or Agent of the other Party, nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against, in the name or on behalf of the other Party unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party in writing, which permission may be granted or withheld by the other Party in its sole discretion.
- 36.4 Each Party shall have sole authority and responsibility to hire, fire, compensate, supervise, and otherwise control its employees, Agents and contractors. Each Party shall be solely responsible for payment of any Social Security or other taxes that it is required by Applicable Law to pay in conjunction with its employees, Agents and contractors, and for withholding and remitting to the applicable taxing authorities any taxes that it is required by Applicable Law to collect from its employees.
- 36.5 Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no Party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.
- 36.6 The relationship of the Parties under this Agreement is a non-exclusive relationship.

**37. Reservation of Rights**

- 37.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, neither Party waives, and each Party hereby expressly reserves, its rights: (a) to appeal or otherwise seek the reversal of and changes in any arbitration decision associated with this Agreement; (b) to challenge the lawfulness of this Agreement and any provision of this Agreement; (c) to seek changes in this Agreement (including, but not limited to, changes in rates, charges and the Services that must be offered) through changes in Applicable Law; (d) to challenge the lawfulness and propriety of, and to seek to change, any Applicable Law, including, but not limited to any rule, regulation, order or decision of the Commission, the FCC, or a court of applicable jurisdiction; and (e) to collect debts owed to it under any prior interconnection or resale agreements. Nothing in this Agreement shall be

deemed to limit or prejudice any position a Party has taken or may take before the Commission, the FCC, any other state or federal regulatory or legislative bodies, courts of applicable jurisdiction, or industry fora. The provisions of this Section shall survive the expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement.

- 37.2 Northstar acknowledges Northstar has been advised by Verizon that it is Verizon's position that this Agreement contains certain provisions which are intended to reflect Applicable Law and Commission and/or FCC arbitration decisions.

**38. Subcontractors**

A Party may use a contractor of the Party (including, but not limited to, an Affiliate of the Party) to perform the Party's obligations under this Agreement; provided, that a Party's use of a contractor shall not release the Party from any duty or liability to fulfill the Party's obligations under this Agreement.

**39. Successors and Assigns**

This Agreement shall be binding on and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective legal successors and permitted assigns.

**40. Survival**

The rights, liabilities and obligations of a Party for acts or omissions occurring prior to the expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement, the rights, liabilities and obligations of a Party under any provision of this Agreement regarding confidential information (including but not limited to, Section 10), indemnification or defense (including, but not limited to, Section 20), or limitation or exclusion of liability (including, but not limited to, Section 25), and the rights, liabilities and obligations of a Party under any provision of this Agreement which by its terms or nature is intended to continue beyond or to be performed after the expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement, shall survive the expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement.

**41. Taxes**

- 41.1 In General. With respect to any purchase hereunder of Services, if any federal, state or local tax, fee, surcharge or other tax-like charge (a "Tax") is required or permitted by Applicable Law or a Tariff to be collected from the Purchasing Party by the Providing Party, then (a) the Providing Party shall properly bill the Purchasing Party for such Tax, (b) the Purchasing Party shall timely remit such Tax to the Providing Party and (c) the Providing Party shall timely remit such collected Tax to the applicable taxing authority.

- 41.2 Taxes Imposed on the Providing Party. With respect to any purchase hereunder of Services, if any federal, state or local Tax is imposed by Applicable Law on the receipts of the Providing Party, and such Applicable Law permits the Providing Party to exclude certain receipts received from sales for resale to a public utility, distributor, telephone company, local exchange carrier, telecommunications company or other communications company ("Telecommunications Company"), such exclusion being based solely on the fact that the Purchasing Party is also subject to a tax based upon receipts ("Receipts Tax"), then the Purchasing Party (a) shall provide the Providing Party with notice in writing in accordance with Section 41.6 of this Agreement of its intent to pay the Receipts Tax and (b) shall timely pay the Receipts Tax to the applicable tax authority.

- 41.3 Taxes Imposed on Customers. With respect to any purchase hereunder of Services that are resold to a third party, if any federal, state or local Tax is imposed by Applicable Law on the subscriber, end-user, Customer or ultimate consumer ("Subscriber") in connection with any such purchase, which a Telecommunications Company is required to impose and/or collect from a Subscriber, then the Purchasing Party (a) shall be required to impose and/or collect such Tax from the Subscriber and (b) shall timely remit such Tax to the applicable taxing authority.
- 41.4 Liability for Uncollected Tax, Interest and Penalty. If the Providing Party has not received an exemption certificate from the Purchasing Party and the Providing Party fails to bill the Purchasing Party for any Tax as required by Section 41.1, then, as between the Providing Party and the Purchasing Party, (a) the Purchasing Party shall remain liable for such unbilled Tax and (b) the Providing Party shall be liable for any interest assessed thereon and any penalty assessed with respect to such unbilled Tax by such authority. If the Providing Party properly bills the Purchasing Party for any Tax but the Purchasing Party fails to remit such Tax to the Providing Party as required by Section 41.1, then, as between the Providing Party and the Purchasing Party, the Purchasing Party shall be liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest assessed thereon, as well as any penalty assessed with respect to such uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority. If the Providing Party does not collect any Tax as required by Section 41.1 because the Purchasing Party has provided such Providing Party with an exemption certificate that is later found to be inadequate by a taxing authority, then, as between the Providing Party and the Purchasing Party, the Purchasing Party shall be liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest assessed thereon, as well as any penalty assessed with respect to such uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority. If the Purchasing Party fails to pay the Receipts Tax as required by Section 41.2, then, as between the Providing Party and the Purchasing Party, (x) the Providing Party shall be liable for any Tax imposed on its receipts and (y) the Purchasing Party shall be liable for any interest assessed thereon and any penalty assessed upon the Providing Party with respect to such Tax by such authority. If the Purchasing Party fails to impose and/or collect any Tax from Subscribers as required by Section 41.3, then, as between the Providing Party and the Purchasing Party, the Purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest assessed thereon, as well as any penalty assessed with respect to such uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority. With respect to any Tax that the Purchasing Party has agreed to pay, or is required to impose on and/or collect from Subscribers, the Purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold the Providing Party harmless 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 recover the Tax from the Providing Party due to the failure of the Purchasing Party to timely pay, or collect and timely remit, such Tax to such authority. 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.
- 41.5 Tax Exemptions and Exemption Certificates. If Applicable Law clearly exempts a purchase hereunder from a Tax, and if such Applicable Law also provides an exemption procedure, such as an exemption-certificate requirement, then, if the Purchasing Party complies with such procedure, the Providing Party shall not collect such Tax during the effective period of such exemption. Such exemption shall be effective upon receipt of the exemption certificate or affidavit in accordance with the terms set forth in Section 41.6. If Applicable Law clearly

exempts a purchase hereunder from a Tax, but does not also provide an exemption procedure, then the Providing Party shall not collect such Tax if the Purchasing Party (a) furnishes the Providing Party with a letter signed by an officer requesting such an exemption and citing the provision in the Applicable Law which clearly allows such exemption and (b) supplies the Providing Party with an indemnification agreement, reasonably acceptable to the Providing Party (e.g., an agreement commonly used in the industry), which holds the Providing Party harmless on an after-tax basis with respect to its forbearing to collect such Tax.

- 41.6 All notices, affidavits, exemption-certificates or other communications required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other, for purposes of this Section 41, shall be made in writing and shall be delivered in person or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or registered mail, or a courier service providing proof of service, and sent to the addressees set forth in Section 29 as well as to the following:

To Verizon:

Tax Administration  
Verizon Communications  
Verizon Center  
One Verizon Way  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

To Northstar:

Matt O'Flaherty  
President  
1101 Hills Road  
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

Either Party may from time to time designate another address or other addressees by giving notice in accordance with the terms of this Section. Any notice or other communication shall be deemed to be given when received.

## **42. Technology Upgrades**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, Verizon shall have the right to deploy, upgrade, migrate and maintain its network at its discretion. The Parties acknowledge that Verizon, at its election, may deploy fiber throughout its network and that such fiber deployment may inhibit or facilitate Northstar's ability to provide service using certain technologies. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit Verizon's ability to modify its network through the incorporation of new equipment or software or otherwise. Northstar shall be solely responsible for the cost and activities associated with accommodating such changes in its own network.

## **43. Territory**

43.1 This Agreement applies to the territory in which Verizon operates as an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Verizon shall be obligated to provide Services under this Agreement only within this territory.

43.2 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, Verizon may terminate this Agreement as to a specific operating territory or portion thereof if Verizon sells or otherwise transfers its operations in such territory or portion thereof to a

third-person. Verizon shall provide Northstar with at least 90 calendar days prior written notice of such termination, which shall be effective upon the date specified in the notice.

**44. Third Party Beneficiaries**

Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, this Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein shall create or be construed to provide any third-persons (including, but not limited to, Customers or contractors of a Party) with any rights (including, but not limited to, any third-party beneficiary rights) hereunder. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, a Party shall have no liability under this Agreement to the Customers of the other Party or to any other third person.

**45. [This Section Intentionally Left Blank]**

**46. 252(i) Obligations**

To the extent required by Applicable Law, each Party shall comply with Section 252(i) of the Act. To the extent that the exercise by Northstar of any rights it may have under Section 252(i) results in the rearrangement of Services by Verizon, Northstar shall be solely liable for all costs associated therewith, as well as for any termination charges associated with the termination of existing Verizon Services.

**47. Use of Service**

Each Party shall make commercially reasonable efforts to ensure that its Customers comply with the provisions of this Agreement (including, but not limited to the provisions of applicable Tariffs) applicable to the use of Services purchased by it under this Agreement.

**48. Waiver**

A failure or delay of either Party to enforce any of the provisions of this Agreement, or any right or remedy available under this Agreement or at law or in equity, or to require performance of any of the provisions of this Agreement, or to exercise any option which is provided under this Agreement, shall in no way be construed to be a waiver of such provisions, rights, remedies or options.

**49. Warranties**

EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY STATED IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY MAKES OR RECEIVES ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE SERVICES PROVIDED, OR TO BE PROVIDED, UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND THE PARTIES DISCLAIM ANY OTHER WARRANTIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, **WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE** WARRANTIES AGAINST INFRINGEMENT, AND WARRANTIES ARISING BY TRADE CUSTOM, TRADE USAGE, COURSE OF DEALING OR PERFORMANCE, OR OTHERWISE.

**50. Withdrawal of Services**

50.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement, except as otherwise required by Applicable Law, Verizon may terminate its offering and/or provision of any Service under this Agreement upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to Northstar.

50.2 Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement, except as otherwise required by Applicable Law, Verizon may with thirty (30) days prior written notice

to Northstar terminate any provision of this Agreement that provides for the payment by Verizon to Northstar of compensation related to traffic, including, but not limited to, Reciprocal Compensation and other types of compensation for termination of traffic delivered by Verizon to Northstar. Following such termination, except as otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties, Verizon shall be obligated to provide compensation to Northstar related to traffic only to the extent required by Applicable Law. If Verizon exercises its right of termination under this Section, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith appropriate substitute provisions for compensation related to traffic; provided, however, that except as otherwise voluntarily agreed by Verizon in writing in its sole discretion, Verizon shall be obligated to provide compensation to Northstar related to traffic only to the extent required by Applicable Law. If within thirty (30) days after Verizon's notice of termination the Parties are unable to agree in writing upon mutually acceptable substitute provisions for compensation related to traffic, either Party may submit their disagreement to dispute resolution in accordance with Section 14 of this Agreement.

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the Effective Date.

**NORTHSTAR TELECOM, INC.**

**VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC., D/B/A VERIZON MASSACHUSETTS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed: Matt O'Flaherty

Printed: Gary Librizzi

Title: President

Title: Director - Negotiations



## GLOSSARY

### 1. General Rule

- 1.1 The provisions of Sections 1.2 through 1.4 and Section 2 apply with regard to the Principal Document. Terms used in a Tariff shall have the meanings stated in the Tariff.
- 1.2 Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, when a term listed in this Glossary is used in the Principal Document, the term shall have the meaning stated in this Glossary. A defined term intended to convey the meaning stated in this Glossary is capitalized when used. Other terms that are capitalized, and not defined in this Glossary or elsewhere in the Principal Document, shall have the meaning stated in the Act. Additional definitions that are specific to the matters covered in a particular provision of the Principal Document may appear in that provision. To the extent that there may be any conflict between a definition set forth in this Glossary and any definition in a specific provision, the definition set forth in the specific provision shall control with respect to that provision.
- 1.3 Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, any term defined in this Glossary which is defined or used in the singular shall include the plural, and any term defined in this Glossary which is defined or used in the plural shall include the singular.
- 1.4 The words "shall" and "will" are used interchangeably throughout the Principal Document and the use of either indicates a mandatory requirement. The use of one or the other shall not confer a different degree of right or obligation for either Party.

### 2. Definitions

- 2.1 Act.  
The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. §151 et seq.), as from time to time amended (including, but not limited to, by the Telecommunications Act of 1996).
- 2.2 Advanced Services.  
As a general matter, shall have the meaning set forth by the FCC.
- 2.3 Affiliate.  
Shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.
- 2.4 Agent.  
An agent or servant.
- 2.5 Agreement.  
This Agreement, as defined in Section 1 of the General Terms and Conditions.
- 2.6 Ancillary Traffic.  
All traffic that is destined for ancillary services, or that may have special billing

requirements, including but not limited to the following: directory assistance, 911/E911, operator services (IntraLATA call completion), IntraLATA third party, collect and calling card, 800/888 database query and LIDB.

2.7 ANI (Automatic Number Identification).

The signaling parameter that refers to the number transmitted through the network identifying the billing number of the calling party.

2.8 Applicable Law.

All effective laws, government regulations and government orders, applicable to each Party's performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

2.9 ASR (Access Service Request).

An industry standard form, which contains data elements and usage rules used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect services or trunks for the purposes of interconnection.

2.10 ATIS.

The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions.

2.11 BFR (Bona Fide Request).

The process described in the Network Element Attachment that prescribes the terms and conditions relating to a Party's request that the other Party provide a UNE that it is not otherwise required to provide under the terms of this Agreement.

2.12 Business Day.

Monday through Friday, except for holidays observed by Verizon.

2.13 Calendar Quarter.

January through March, April through June, July through September, or October through December.

2.14 Calendar Year.

January through December.

2.15 CCS (Common Channel Signaling).

A method of transmitting call set-up and network control data over a digital signaling network separate from the public switched telephone network facilities that carry the actual voice or data content of the call.

2.16 Central Office.

An End Office or Tandem. Sometimes this term is used to refer to a telephone company building in which switching systems and telephone equipment are installed.

2.17 [Intentionally Left Blank].

- 2.18 Claims.
- Any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, settlements, judgments, fines, penalties, liabilities, injuries, damages, losses, costs (including, but not limited to, court costs), and expenses (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees).
- 2.19 CLEC (Competitive Local Exchange Carrier).
- Any Local Exchange Carrier other than Verizon that is operating as a Local Exchange Carrier in the territory in which Verizon operates as an ILEC in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Northstar is or shortly will become a CLEC.
- 2.20 CLLI Codes.
- Common Language Location Identifier Codes.
- 2.21 CMDS (Centralized Message Distribution System).
- The billing record and clearing house transport system that LECs use to exchange out collects and in collects as well as Carrier Access Billing System (CABS) records.
- 2.22 Commission.
- Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy.
- 2.23 CPN (Calling Party Number).
- A CCS parameter that identifies the calling party's telephone number.
- 2.24 CPNI (Customer Proprietary Network Information).
- Shall have the meaning set forth in Section 222 of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 222.
- 2.25 Cross Connection.
- For a collocation arrangement, the facilities between the collocating Party's equipment and the equipment or facilities of the housing Party (such as the housing Party's digital signal cross connect, Main Distribution Frame, or other suitable frame or panel).
- 2.26 Customer.
- A third party residence or business end-user subscriber to Telephone Exchange Services provided by either of the Parties.
- 2.27 Dark Fiber IOF (Dark Fiber Interoffice Facility).
- Consists of fiber strand(s) that are located within a fiber optic cable between either (a) accessible terminals in two or more Verizon Central Offices or (b) an accessible terminal in a Verizon Central Office and an accessible terminal in a Northstar Central Office, but, in either case, that has not been activated through connection to multiplexing, aggregation or other electronics that "light it" and thereby render it capable of carrying Telecommunications Services.
- 2.28 Dark Fiber Loop.

Consists of fiber optic strand(s) in a Verizon fiber optic cable between Verizon's accessible terminal, such as the fiber distribution frame, or its functional equivalent, located within a Verizon Wire Center, and Verizon's accessible terminal located in Verizon's main termination point at a Customer premises, such as a fiber patch panel, and that has not been activated through connection to electronics that "light" it and render it capable of carrying Telecommunications Services.

2.29 Dark Fiber Sub-Loop.

Consists of fiber optic strand(s) in a Verizon fiber optic cable (a) between Verizon's accessible terminal located within a Verizon Wire Center, and Verizon's accessible terminal at a Verizon remote terminal equipment enclosure, (b) between Verizon's accessible terminal at a Verizon remote terminal equipment enclosure and Verizon's accessible terminal located in Verizon's main termination point located within a Customer premises, or (c) between Verizon's accessible terminals at Verizon remote terminal equipment enclosures, and that in all cases has not been activated through connection to electronics that "light" it and render it capable of carrying Telecommunications Services.

2.30 Digital Signal Level.

One of several transmission rates in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.31 DS0 (Digital Signal Level 0).

The 64kbps zero-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.32 DS1 (Digital Signal Level 1).

The 1.544 Mbps first-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.33 DS3 (Digital Signal Level 3).

The 44.736 Mbps third-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.34 EMI (Exchange Message Interface).

Standard used for the interexchange of telecommunications message information between local exchange carriers and interexchange carriers for billable, non-billable, sample, settlement and study data. Data is provided between companies via a unique record layout that contains Customer billing information, account summary and tracking analysis. EMI format is contained in document SR-320 published by the ATIS.

2.35 End Office.

A switching entity that is used for connecting lines to lines or lines to trunks for the purpose of originating/terminating calls. Sometimes this term is used to refer to a telephone company building in which switching systems and telephone equipment are installed.

2.36 Entrance Facility.

The facilities between a Party's designated premises and the Central Office serving that designated premises.

- 2.37 Exchange Access.  
Shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.
- 2.38 Extended Local Calling Scope Arrangement.  
An arrangement that provides a Customer a local calling scope (Extended Area Service, "EAS"), outside of the Customer's basic exchange serving area. Extended Local Calling Scope Arrangements may be either optional or non-optional. "Optional Extended Local Calling Scope Arrangement Traffic" is traffic that under an optional Extended Local Calling Scope Arrangement chosen by the Customer terminates outside of the Customer's basic exchange serving area.
- 2.39 FCC.  
The Federal Communications Commission.
- 2.40 FCC Internet Order.  
Order on Remand and Report and Order, *In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Intercarrier Compensation for ISP Bound Traffic*, FCC 01-131, CC Docket Nos. 96-98 and 99-68, (adopted April 18, 2001).
- 2.41 FCC Regulations.  
The unstayed, effective regulations promulgated by the FCC, as amended from time to time.
- 2.42 FNID (Fiber Network Interface Device).  
A passive fiber optic demarcation unit designed for the interconnection and demarcation of optical fibers between two separate network providers.
- 2.43 House and Riser Cable.  
A two-wire metallic distribution facility in Verizon's network between the minimum point of entry for a building where a premises of a Customer is located (such a point, an "MPOE") and the Rate Demarcation Point for such facility (or NID) if the NID is located at such Rate Demarcation Point).
- 2.44 IDLC (Integrated Digital Loop Carrier).  
A subscriber Loop carrier system that integrates within the switch at a DS1 level, which is twenty-four (24) Loop transmission paths combined into a 1.544 Mbps digital signal.
- 2.45 ILEC (Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier).  
Shall have the meaning stated in the Act.
- 2.46 Information Access.  
The provision of specialized exchange telecommunications services in connection with the origination, termination, transmission, switching, forwarding or routing of telecommunications traffic to or from the facilities of a provider of information services, including a provider of Internet access or Internet

transmission services.

2.47 Inside Wire or Inside Wiring.

All wire, cable, terminals, hardware, and other equipment or materials, on the Customer's side of the Rate Demarcation Point.

2.48 Internet Traffic.

Any traffic that is transmitted to or returned from the Internet at any point during the duration of the transmission.

2.49 InterLATA Service.

Shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.

2.50 IntraLATA.

Telecommunications that originate and terminate within the same LATA.

2.51 [Intentionally Left Blank].

2.52 ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network).

A switched network service providing end-to-end digital connectivity for the simultaneous transmission of voice and data. Basic Rate Interface-ISDN (BRI-ISDN) provides for digital transmission of two (2) 64 kbps bearer channels and one (1) 16 kbps data and signaling channel (2B+D). Primary Rate Interface-ISDN (PRI-ISDN) provides for digital transmission of twenty-three (23) 64 kbps bearer channels and one (1) 64 kbps data and signaling channel (23B+D).

2.53 IXC (Interexchange Carrier).

A Telecommunications Carrier that provides, directly or indirectly, InterLATA or IntraLATA Telephone Toll Services.

2.54 LATA (Local Access and Transport Area).

Shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.

2.55 LEC (Local Exchange Carrier).

Shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.

2.56 LERG (Local Exchange Routing Guide).

A Telcordia Technologies reference containing NPA/NXX routing and homing information.

2.57 LIDB (Line Information Data Base).

Line Information databases which provide, among other things, calling card validation functionality for telephone line number cards issued by Verizon and other entities and validation data for collect and third number-billed calls (e.g., data for billed number screening).

2.58 Line Side.

An End Office connection that provides transmission, switching and optional features suitable for Customer connection to the public switched network, including loop start supervision, ground start supervision and signaling for BRI-ISDN service.

2.59 Loop.

A transmission path that extends from a Main Distribution Frame or functionally comparable piece of equipment in a Customer's serving End Office, to the Rate Demarcation Point (or NID if installed at the Rate Demarcation Point) in or at the Customer's premises. The actual transmission facilities used to provide a Loop may utilize any of several technologies.

2.60 LSR (Local Service Request).

An industry standard form, which contains data elements and usage rules, used by the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect resold Telecommunications Services and Network Elements.

2.61 Maintenance Control Office.

Either Party's center responsible for control of the maintenance and repair of a circuit.

2.62 MDF (Main Distribution Frame).

The primary point at which outside plant facilities terminate within a Wire Center, for interconnection to other Telecommunications facilities within the Wire Center. The distribution frame used to interconnect cable pairs and line trunk equipment terminating on a switching system.

2.63 Measured Internet Traffic.

Dial-up, switched Internet Traffic originated by a Customer of one Party on that Party's network at a point in a Verizon local calling area, and delivered to a Customer or an Internet Service Provider served by the other Party, on that other Party's network at a point in the same Verizon local calling area. Verizon local calling areas shall be as defined by Verizon. For the purposes of this definition, a Verizon local calling area includes a Verizon non-optional Extended Local Calling Scope Arrangement, but does not include a Verizon optional Extended Local Calling Scope Arrangement. Calls originated on a 1+ presubscription basis, or on a casual dialed (10XXX/101XXXX) basis, are not considered Measured Internet Traffic. For the avoidance of any doubt, Virtual Foreign Exchange Traffic (i.e., V/FX Traffic) (as defined in the Interconnection Attachment) does not constitute Measured Internet Traffic.

2.64 MECAB (Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing).

A document prepared by the Billing Committee of the Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF), which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) of ATIS. The MECAB document, published by ATIS as "ATIS/OBF-MECAB", as revised from time to time, contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of an Exchange Access Service provided by two or more LECs, or by one LEC in two or more states, within a single LATA.

- 2.65 MECOD (Multiple Exchange Carriers Ordering and Design Guidelines for Access Services - Industry Support Interface).

A document developed by the Ordering/Provisioning Committee under the auspices of the Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF), which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) of ATIS. The MECOD document, published by ATIS as "ATIS/OBF-MECOD", as revised from time to time, establishes methods for processing orders for Exchange Access Service that is to be provided by two or more LECs.

- 2.66 [Intentionally Left Blank].

- 2.67 NANP (North American Numbering Plan).

The system of telephone numbering employed in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Puerto Rico and certain Caribbean islands. The NANP format is a 10-digit number that consist of a 3-digit NPA Code (commonly referred to as the area code), followed by a 3-digit NXX code and 4 digit line number.

- 2.68 Network Element.

Shall have the meaning stated in the Act.

- 2.69 NID (Network Interface Device).

The Verizon provided interface terminating Verizon's Telecommunications network on the property where the Customer's service is located at a point determined by Verizon. The NID contains an FCC Part 68 registered jack from which Inside Wire may be connected to Verizon's network.

- 2.70 Non Revertive.

Where traffic is redirected to a protection line because of failure of a working line and the working line is repaired, traffic will remain on the protection line until there is either manual intervention or a failure of the protection line.

- 2.71 NPA (Numbering Plan Area).

Also sometimes referred to as an area code, is the first three-digit indicator of each 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. There are two general categories of NPA, "Geographic NPAs" and "Non-Geographic NPAs". A Geographic NPA is associated with a defined geographic area, and all telephone numbers bearing such NPA are associated with services provided within that geographic area. A Non-Geographic NPA, also known as a "Service Access Code" or "SAC Code" is typically associated with a specialized Telecommunications Service that may be provided across multiple geographic NPA areas. 500, 700, 800, 888 and 900 are examples of Non-Geographic NPAs.

- 2.72 NXX, NXX Code, Central Office Code or CO Code.

The three-digit switch entity indicator (i.e. the first three digits of a seven-digit telephone number).

- 2.73 Order.

An order or application to provide, change or terminate a Service (including, but



not limited to, a commitment to purchase a stated number or minimum number of lines or other Services for a stated period or minimum period of time).

2.74 Originating Switched Access Detail Usage Data.

A category 1101XX record as defined in the EMI Telcordia Practice BR-010-200-010.

2.75 POI (Point of Interconnection).

The physical location where the Parties' respective facilities physically interconnect for the purpose of mutually exchanging their traffic. As set forth in the Interconnection Attachment, a Point of Interconnection shall be at (i) a technically feasible point on Verizon's network in a LATA and/or (ii) a fiber meet point to which the Parties mutually agree under the terms of this Agreement. By way of example, a technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA would include an applicable Verizon Tandem Wire Center or Verizon End Office Wire Center but, notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement or otherwise, would not include a Northstar Wire Center, Northstar switch or any portion of a transport facility provided by Verizon to Northstar or another party between (x) a Verizon Wire Center or switch and (y) the Wire Center or switch of Northstar or another party.

2.76 Port.

A line card (or equivalent) and associated peripheral equipment on an End Office (circuit switched only) that interconnects individual Loops or individual Customer trunks with the circuit switching components of such End Office and the associated circuit switching functionality in that End Office. Each Port is typically associated with one (or more) telephone number(s) that serves as the Customer's network address. The Port is part of the provision of the unbundled local circuit switching element.

2.77 Primary Reference Source.

Equipment that provides a timing signal to synchronize network elements.

2.78 Principal Document.

This document, including, but not limited to, the Title Page, the Table of Contents, the Preface, the General Terms and Conditions, the signature page, this Glossary, the Attachments, and the Appendices to the Attachments.

2.79 Providing Party.

A Party offering or providing a Service to the other Party under this Agreement.

2.80 Purchasing Party.

A Party requesting or receiving a Service from the other Party under this Agreement.

2.81 Rate Center Area.

The geographic area that has been identified by a given LEC as being associated with a particular NPA-NXX code assigned to the LEC for its provision of Telephone Exchange Services. The Rate Center Area is the exclusive

geographic area that the LEC has identified as the area within which it will provide Telephone Exchange Services bearing the particular NPA-NXX designation associated with the specific Rate Center Area.

2.82 Rate Center Point.

A specific geographic point, defined by a V&H coordinate, located within the Rate Center Area and used to measure distance for the purpose of billing for distance-sensitive Telephone Exchange Services and Toll Traffic. Pursuant to Telcordia Practice BR-795-100-100, the Rate Center Point may be an End Office location, or a "LEC Consortium Point Of Interconnection."

2.83 Rate Demarcation Point.

The physical point in a Verizon provided network facility at which Verizon's responsibility for maintaining that network facility ends and the Customer's responsibility for maintaining the remainder of the facility begins, as set forth in this Agreement, Verizon's applicable Tariffs, if any, or as otherwise prescribed under Applicable Law.

2.84 Reciprocal Compensation.

The arrangement for recovering, in accordance with Section 251(b)(5) of the Act, the FCC Internet Order, and other applicable FCC orders and FCC Regulations, costs incurred for the transport and termination of Reciprocal Compensation Traffic originating on one Party's network and terminating on the other Party's network (as set forth in Section 7 of the Interconnection Attachment).

2.85 Reciprocal Compensation Traffic.

Telecommunications traffic originated by a Customer of one Party on that Party's network and terminated to a Customer of the other Party on that other Party's network, except for Telecommunications traffic that is interstate or intrastate Exchange Access, Information Access, or exchange services for Exchange Access or Information Access. The determination of whether Telecommunications traffic is Exchange Access or Information Access shall be based upon Verizon's local calling areas as defined by Verizon. Reciprocal Compensation Traffic does not include the following traffic (it being understood that certain traffic types will fall into more than one (1) of the categories below that do not constitute Reciprocal Compensation Traffic): (1) any Internet Traffic; (2) traffic that does not originate and terminate within the same Verizon local calling area as defined by Verizon, and based on the actual originating and terminating points of the complete end-to-end communication; (3) Toll Traffic, including, but not limited to, calls originated on a 1+ presubscription basis, or on a casual dialed (10XXX/101XXX) basis; (4) Optional Extended Local Calling Scope Arrangement Traffic; (5) special access, private line, Frame Relay, ATM, or any other traffic that is not switched by the terminating Party; (6) Tandem Transit Traffic; (7) Voice Information Service Traffic (as defined in Section 5 of the Additional Services Attachment); or, (8) Virtual Foreign Exchange Traffic (or V/FX Traffic) (as defined in the Interconnection Attachment). For the purposes of this definition, a Verizon local calling area includes a Verizon non-optional Extended Local Calling Scope Arrangement, but does not include a Verizon optional Extended Local Calling Scope Arrangement.

2.86 Retail Prices.

The prices at which a Service is provided by Verizon at retail to subscribers who are not Telecommunications Carriers.

2.87 Routing Point.

A specific geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate. The Routing Point is used to route inbound traffic to specified NPA-NXXs. The Routing Point must be located within the LATA in which the corresponding NPA-NXX is located. However, the Routing Point associated with each NPA-NXX need not be the same as the corresponding Rate Center Point, nor must it be located within the corresponding Rate Center Area, nor must there be a unique and separate Routing Point corresponding to each unique and separate Rate Center Area.

2.88 Service.

Any Interconnection arrangement, Network Element, Telecommunications Service, collocation arrangement, or other service, facility or arrangement, offered by a Party under this Agreement.

2.89 SS7 (Signaling System 7).

The common channel out-of-band signaling protocol developed by the Consultative Committee for International Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Verizon and Northstar currently utilize this out-of-band signaling protocol.

2.90 Subsidiary.

A corporation or other person that is controlled by a Party.

2.91 Sub-Loop Distribution Facility.

A two-wire or four-wire metallic distribution facility in Verizon's network between a Verizon feeder distribution interface ("FDI") and the Rate Demarcation Point for such facility (or NID if the NID is located at such Rate Demarcation Point).

2.92 Sub-Loop Feeder Facility.

A DS1 or DS3 transmission path over a feeder facility in Verizon's network between a Verizon End Office and either a Verizon remote terminal equipment enclosure (an "RTEE") that subtends such End Office or a Verizon FDI that subtends the End Office.

2.93 Switched Exchange Access Service.

The offering of transmission and switching services for the purpose of the origination or termination of Toll Traffic. Switched Exchange Access Services include but may not be limited to: Feature Group A, Feature Group B, Feature Group D, 700 access, 800 access, 888 access and 900 access.

2.94 Tandem.

A switching entity that has billing and recording capabilities and is used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among End Offices and between and among End Offices and carriers' aggregation points, points of termination, or points of presence, and to provide Switched Exchange Access Services.

Sometimes this term is used to refer to a telephone company building in which switching systems and telephone equipment are installed.

2.95 Tariff.

2.95.1 Any applicable Federal or state tariff of a Party, as amended from time to time; or

2.95.2 Any standard agreement or other document, as amended from time to time, that sets forth the generally available terms, conditions and prices under which a Party offers a Service.

The term "Tariff" does not include any Verizon Statement of Generally Available Terms (SGAT) which has been approved or is pending approval by the Commission pursuant to Section 252(f) of the Act.

2.96 Telcordia Technologies.

Telcordia Technologies, Inc., formerly known as Bell Communications Research, Inc. (Bellcore).

2.97 Telecommunications Carrier.

Shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.

2.98 Telecommunications Services.

Shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.

2.99 Telephone Exchange Service.

Shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.

2.100 Terminating Switched Access Detail Usage Data.

A category 1101XX record as defined in the EMI Telcordia Practice BR-010-200-010.

2.101 Third Party Claim.

A Claim where there is (a) a claim, demand, suit or action by a person who is not a Party, (b) a settlement with, judgment by, or liability to, a person who is not a Party, or (c) a fine or penalty imposed by a person who is not a Party.

2.102 Toll Traffic.

Traffic that is originated by a Customer of one Party on that Party's network and terminates to a Customer of the other Party on that other Party's network and is not Reciprocal Compensation Traffic, Measured Internet Traffic, or Ancillary Traffic. Toll Traffic may be either "IntraLATA Toll Traffic" or "InterLATA Toll Traffic", depending on whether the originating and terminating points are within the same LATA.

2.103 Toxic or Hazardous Substance.

Any substance designated or defined as toxic or hazardous under any "Environmental Law" or that poses a risk to human health or safety, or the

environment, and products and materials containing such substance. "Environmental Laws" means the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, the Water Pollution Control Act, the Air Pollution Control Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and all other Federal, State or local laws or governmental regulations or requirements, that are similar to the above-referenced laws or that otherwise govern releases, chemicals, products, materials or wastes that may pose risks to human health or safety, or the environment, or that relate to the protection of wetlands or other natural resources.

2.104 Traffic Factor 1.

For traffic exchanged via Interconnection Trunks, a percentage calculated by dividing the number of minutes of interstate traffic (excluding Measured Internet Traffic) by the total number of minutes of interstate and intrastate traffic. ( $\frac{\text{Interstate Traffic Total Minutes of Use (excluding Measured Internet Traffic Total Minutes of Use)}}{\text{Interstate Traffic Total Minutes of Use + Intrastate Traffic Total Minutes of Use}} \times 100$ ). Until the form of a Party's bills is updated to use the term "Traffic Factor 1," the term "Traffic Factor 1" may be referred to on the Party's bills and in billing related communications as "Percent Interstate Usage" or "PIU."

2.105 Traffic Factor 2.

For traffic exchanged via Interconnection Trunks, a percentage calculated by dividing the combined total number of minutes of Reciprocal Compensation Traffic and Measured Internet Traffic by the combined total number of minutes of intrastate traffic and Measured Internet Traffic. ( $\frac{\text{Reciprocal Compensation Traffic Total Minutes of Use + Measured Internet Traffic Total Minutes of Use}}{\text{Intrastate Traffic Total Minutes of Use + Measured Internet Traffic Total Minutes of Use}} \times 100$ ). Until the form of a Party's bills is updated to use the term "Traffic Factor 2," the term "Traffic Factor 2" may be referred to on the Party's bills and in billing related communications as "Percent Local Usage" or "PLU."

2.106 Trunk Side.

A Central Office Switch connection that is capable of, and has been programmed to treat the circuit as, connecting to another switching entity, for example, to another carrier's network. Trunk side connections offer those transmission and signaling features appropriate for the connection of switching entities and cannot be used for the direct connection of ordinary telephone station sets.

2.107 UDLC (Universal Digital Loop Carrier).

UDLC arrangements consist of a Central Office Terminal and a Remote Terminal located in the outside plant or at a Customer premises. The Central Office and the Remote Terminal units perform analog to digital conversions to allow the feeding facility to be digital. UDLC is deployed where the types of services to be provisioned by the systems cannot be integrated such as non-switched services and UNE Loops.

2.108 V and H Coordinates Method.

A method of computing airline miles between two points by utilizing an

established formula that is based on the vertical and horizontal coordinates of the two points.

2.109 Voice Grade.

Either an analog signal of 300 to 3000 Hz or a digital signal of 56/64 kilobits per second. When referring to digital Voice Grade service (a 56-64 kbps channel), the terms "DS0" or "sub-DS1" may also be used.

2.110 Wire Center.

A building or portion thereof which serves as the premises for one or more End Offices, Tandems and related facilities.

2.111 xDSL.

As defined and offered in this Agreement. The small "x" before the letters DSL signifies reference to DSL as a generic transmission technology, as opposed to a specific DSL "flavor."

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES ATTACHMENT

### 1. **Alternate Billed Calls**

1.1 The Parties will engage in settlements of intraLATA intrastate alternate-billed calls (e.g., collect, calling card, and third-party billed calls) originated or authorized by their respective Customers in accordance with an arrangement mutually agreed to by the Parties.

### 2. **Dialing Parity - Section 251(b)(3)**

Each Party shall provide the other Party with nondiscriminatory access to such services and information as are necessary to allow the other Party to implement local Dialing Parity in accordance with the requirements of Section 251(b)(3) of the Act.

### 3. **[This Section Intentionally Left Blank]**

### 4. **Directory Listing and Directory Distribution**

To the extent required by Applicable Law, Verizon will provide directory services to Northstar. Such services will be provided in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

#### 4.1 Listing Information.

As used herein, "Listing Information" means a Northstar Customer's primary name, address (including city, state and zip code), telephone number(s), the delivery address and number of directories to be delivered, and, in the case of a business Customer, the primary business heading under which the business Customer desires to be placed, and any other information Verizon deems necessary for the publication and delivery of directories.

#### 4.2 Listing Information Supply.

Northstar shall provide to Verizon on a regularly scheduled basis, at no charge, and in a format required by Verizon or by a mutually agreed upon industry standard (e.g., Ordering and Billing Forum developed) all Listing Information and the service address for each Northstar Customer whose service address location falls within the geographic area covered by the relevant Verizon directory. Northstar shall also provide to Verizon on a daily basis: (a) information showing Northstar Customers who have disconnected or terminated their service with Northstar; and (b) delivery information for each non-listed or non-published Northstar Customer to enable Verizon to perform its directory distribution responsibilities. Verizon shall promptly provide to Northstar (normally within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt by Verizon, excluding non-business days) a query on any listing that is not acceptable.

#### 4.3 Listing Inclusion and Distribution.

Verizon shall include each Northstar Customer's primary listing in the appropriate alphabetical directory and, for business Customers, in the appropriate classified (Yellow Pages) directory in accordance with the directory configuration, scope and schedules determined by Verizon in its sole discretion, and shall provide initial distribution of such directories to such Northstar Customers in the same manner it provides initial distribution of such directories to its own Customers. "Primary Listing" means a Customer's primary name, address, and telephone

number. Listings of Northstar's Customers shall be interfiled with listings of Verizon's Customers and the Customers of other LECs included in the Verizon directories. Northstar shall pay Verizon's Tariffed charges for additional, foreign, and other listings products (as documented in local Tariff) for Northstar's Customers.

#### 4.4 Verizon Information.

Upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall make available to Northstar the following information to the extent that Verizon provides such information to its own business offices: a directory list of relevant NXX codes, directory and Customer Guide close dates, and Yellow Pages headings. Verizon shall also make available to Northstar, on Verizon's Wholesale website (or, at Verizon's option, in writing) Verizon's directory listings standards and specifications.

#### 4.5 Confidentiality of Listing Information.

Verizon shall accord Northstar Listing Information the same level of confidentiality that Verizon accords its own listing information, and shall use such Listing Information solely for the purpose of providing directory-related services; provided, however, that should Verizon elect to do so, it may use or license Northstar Listing Information for directory publishing, direct marketing, or any other purpose for which Verizon uses or licenses its own listing information, so long as Northstar Customers are not separately identified as such; and provided further that Northstar may identify those of its Customers who request that their names not be sold for direct marketing purposes and Verizon shall honor such requests to the same extent that it does for its own Customers. Verizon shall not be obligated to compensate Northstar for Verizon's use or licensing of Northstar Listing Information.

#### 4.6 Accuracy.

Both Parties shall use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure the accurate publication of Northstar Customer listings. At Northstar's request, Verizon shall provide Northstar with a report of all Northstar Customer listings in a reasonable timeframe prior to the service order close date for the applicable directory. Verizon shall process any corrections made by Northstar with respect to its listings, provided such corrections are received prior to the close date of the particular directory.

#### 4.7 Indemnification.

Northstar shall adhere to all practices, standards, and ethical requirements established by Verizon with regard to listings. By providing Verizon with Listing Information, Northstar warrants to Verizon that Northstar has the right to provide such Listing Information to Verizon on behalf of its Customers. Northstar shall make commercially reasonable efforts to ensure that any business or person to be listed is authorized and has the right (a) to provide the product or service offered, and (b) to use any personal or corporate name, trade name, trademark, service mark or language used in the listing. Northstar agrees to release, defend, hold harmless and indemnify Verizon from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, suits, or other actions, or any liability whatsoever, suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by any person arising out of Verizon's publication or dissemination of the Listing Information as provided by Northstar hereunder.



4.8 Liability.

Verizon's liability to Northstar in the event of a Verizon error in or omission of a Northstar Customer listing shall not exceed the amount actually paid by Northstar to Verizon for such listing. Northstar agrees to take all reasonable steps, including, but not limited to, entering into appropriate contractual provisions with its Customers, to ensure that its and Verizon's liability to Northstar's Customers in the event of a Verizon error in or omission of a listing shall be subject to the same limitations of liability applicable between Verizon and its own Customers as set forth in Verizon's applicable Tariffs.

4.9 Service Information Pages.

Verizon shall include all Northstar NXX codes associated with the geographic areas to which each directory pertains, to the extent it does so for Verizon's own NXX codes, in any lists of such codes that are contained in the general reference portion of each directory. Northstar's NXX codes shall appear in such lists in the same manner as Verizon's NXX information. In addition, when Northstar is authorized to, and is offering, local service to Customers located within the geographic area covered by a specific directory, at Northstar's request, Verizon shall include, at no charge, in the "Customer Guide" or comparable section of the applicable alphabetical directories, Northstar's critical contact information for Northstar's installation, repair and Customer service, as provided by Northstar. Such critical contact information shall appear alphabetically by local exchange carrier and in accordance with Verizon's generally applicable policies. Northstar shall be responsible for providing the necessary information to Verizon by the applicable close date for each affected directory.

4.10 Directory Publication.

Nothing in this Agreement shall require Verizon to publish a directory where it would not otherwise do so.

4.11 Other Directory Services.

Northstar acknowledges that if Northstar desires directory services in addition to those described herein, such additional services must be obtained under separate agreement with Verizon's directory publishing company.

**5. Voice Information Service Traffic**

5.1 For purposes of this Section 5, (a) Voice Information Service means a service that provides [i] recorded voice announcement information or [ii] a vocal discussion program open to the public, and (b) Voice Information Service Traffic means intraLATA switched voice traffic, delivered to a Voice Information Service. Voice Information Service Traffic does not include any form of Internet Traffic. Voice Information Service Traffic also does not include 555 traffic or similar traffic with AIN service interfaces, which traffic shall be subject to separate arrangements between the Parties. Voice Information Service Traffic is not subject to Reciprocal Compensation charges under Section 7 of the Interconnection Attachment.

5.2 If a Northstar Customer is served by resold Verizon dial tone line Telecommunications Service or a Verizon Local Switching UNE, to the extent reasonably feasible, Verizon will route Voice Information Service Traffic originating from such Service or UNE to the appropriate Voice Information

Service connected to Verizon's network unless a feature blocking such Voice Information Service Traffic has been installed. For such Voice Information Service Traffic, Northstar shall pay to Verizon without discount any Voice Information Service provider charges billed by Verizon to Northstar. Northstar shall pay Verizon such charges in full regardless of whether or not Northstar collects such charges from its Customer.

- 5.3 Northstar shall have the option to route Voice Information Service Traffic that originates on its own network to the appropriate Voice Information Service connected to Verizon's network. In the event Northstar exercises such option, Northstar will establish, at its own expense, a dedicated trunk group to the Verizon Voice Information Service serving switch. This trunk group will be utilized to allow Northstar to route Voice Information Service Traffic originated on its network to Verizon. For such Voice Information Service Traffic, unless Northstar has entered into a written agreement with Verizon under which Northstar will collect from Northstar's Customer and remit to Verizon the Voice Information Service provider's charges, Northstar shall pay to Verizon without discount any Voice Information Service provider charges billed by Verizon to Northstar. Northstar shall pay Verizon such charges in full regardless of whether or not Northstar collects such charges from its own Customer.

## **6. Intercept and Referral Announcements**

- 6.1 When a Customer changes its service provider from Verizon to Northstar, or from Northstar to Verizon, and does not retain its original telephone number, the Party formerly providing service to such Customer shall provide a referral announcement ("Referral Announcement") on the abandoned telephone number which provides the Customer's new number or other appropriate information, to the extent known to the Party formerly providing service. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Party shall not be obligated under this Section to provide a Referral Announcement if the Customer owes the Party unpaid overdue amounts or the Customer requests that no Referral Announcement be provided.
- 6.2 Referral Announcements shall be provided, in the case of business Customers, for a period of not less than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the date the Customer changes its telephone number, and, in the case of residential Customers, not less than thirty (30) days after the date the Customer changes its telephone number; provided that if a longer time period is required by Applicable Law, such longer time period shall apply. Except as otherwise provided by Applicable Law, the period for a referral may be shortened by the Party formerly providing service if a number shortage condition requires reassignment of the telephone number.
- 6.3 This referral announcement will be provided by each Party at no charge to the other Party; provided that the Party formerly providing service may bill the Customer its standard Tariff charge, if any, for the referral announcement.

## **7. Originating Line Number Screening (OLNS)**

Upon Northstar's request, Verizon will update its database used to provide originating line number screening (the database of information which indicates to an operator the acceptable billing methods for calls originating from the calling number (e.g., penal institutions, COCOTS).

## **8. Operations Support Systems (OSS) Services**

- 8.1 Definitions.

The terms listed below shall have the meanings stated below:

- 8.1.1 Verizon Operations Support Systems: Verizon systems for pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair, and billing.
  - 8.1.2 Verizon OSS Services: Access to Verizon Operations Support Systems functions. The term "Verizon OSS Services" includes, but is not limited to: (a) Verizon's provision of Northstar Usage Information to Northstar pursuant to Section 8.3 of this Attachment; and, (b) "Verizon OSS Information", as defined in Section 8.1.4 of this Attachment.
  - 8.1.3 Verizon OSS Facilities: Any gateways, interfaces, databases, facilities, equipment, software, or systems, used by Verizon to provide Verizon OSS Services to Northstar.
  - 8.1.4 Verizon OSS Information: Any information accessed by, or disclosed or provided to, Northstar through or as a part of Verizon OSS Services. The term "Verizon OSS Information" includes, but is not limited to: (a) any Customer Information related to a Verizon Customer or a Northstar Customer accessed by, or disclosed or provided to, Northstar through or as a part of Verizon OSS Services; and, (b) any Northstar Usage Information (as defined in Section 8.1.6 of this Attachment) accessed by, or disclosed or provided to, Northstar.
  - 8.1.5 Verizon Retail Telecommunications Service: Any Telecommunications Service that Verizon provides at retail to subscribers that are not Telecommunications Carriers. The term "Verizon Retail Telecommunications Service" does not include any Exchange Access service (as defined in Section 3(16) of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 153(16)) provided by Verizon.
  - 8.1.6 Northstar Usage Information: For a Verizon Retail Telecommunications Service purchased by Northstar pursuant to the Resale Attachment, the usage information that Verizon would record if Verizon was furnishing such Verizon Retail Telecommunications Service to a Verizon end-user retail Customer. For a Verizon Local Switching Network Element purchased by Northstar pursuant to the Network Element Attachment, the usage information that Verizon would record if Verizon was using such Local Switching Network Element to furnish a Verizon Retail Telecommunications Service to a Verizon end-user retail Customer.
  - 8.1.7 Customer Information: CPNI of a Customer and any other non-public, individually identifiable information about a Customer or the purchase by a Customer of the services or products of a Party.
- 8.2 Verizon OSS Services.
- 8.2.1 Upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall provide to Northstar Verizon OSS Services. Such Verizon OSS Services will be provided in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.
  - 8.2.2 Subject to the requirements of Applicable Law, Verizon Operations Support Systems, Verizon Operations Support Systems functions, Verizon OSS Facilities, Verizon OSS Information, and the Verizon OSS Services that will be offered by Verizon, shall be as determined by Verizon. Subject to the requirements of Applicable Law, Verizon

shall have the right to change Verizon Operations Support Systems, Verizon Operations Support Systems functions, Verizon OSS Facilities, Verizon OSS Information, and the Verizon OSS Services, from time-to-time, without the consent of Northstar.

8.2.3 To the extent required by Applicable Law, in providing Verizon OSS Services to Northstar, Verizon will comply with Verizon's applicable OSS Change Management Guidelines, as such Guidelines are modified from time-to-time, including, but not limited to, the provisions of the Guidelines related to furnishing notice of changes in Verizon OSS Services. Verizon's OSS Change Management Guidelines will be set out on a Verizon website.

### 8.3 Northstar Usage Information.

8.3.1 Upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall provide to Northstar Northstar Usage Information. Such Northstar Usage Information will be provided in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.

8.3.2 Northstar Usage Information will be available to Northstar through the following:

8.3.2.1 Daily Usage File on Data Tape.

8.3.2.2 Daily Usage File through Network Data Mover (NDM).

8.3.3 Northstar Usage Information will be provided in an ATIS EMI format.

8.3.4 Daily Usage File Data Tapes provided pursuant to Section 8.3.2.1 of this Attachment will be issued each Business Day.

8.3.5 Except as stated in this Section 8.3, subject to the requirements of Applicable Law, the manner in which, and the frequency with which, Northstar Usage Information will be provided to Northstar shall be determined by Verizon.

### 8.4 Access to and Use of Verizon OSS Facilities.

8.4.1 Verizon OSS Facilities may be accessed and used by Northstar only to the extent necessary for Northstar's access to and use of Verizon OSS Services pursuant to this Agreement.

8.4.2 Verizon OSS Facilities may be accessed and used by Northstar only to provide Telecommunications Services to Northstar Customers.

8.4.3 Northstar shall restrict access to and use of Verizon OSS Facilities to Northstar. This Section 8 does not grant to Northstar any right or license to grant sublicenses to other persons, or permission to other persons (except Northstar's employees, agents and contractors, in accordance with Section 8.4.7 of this Attachment), to access or use Verizon OSS Facilities.

8.4.4 Northstar shall not (a) alter, modify or damage the Verizon OSS Facilities (including, but not limited to, Verizon software), (b) copy, remove, derive, reverse engineer, or decompile, software from the Verizon OSS Facilities, or (c) obtain access through Verizon OSS Facilities to Verizon databases, facilities, equipment, software, or systems, which are not offered for Northstar's use under this Section 8.

- 8.4.5 Northstar shall comply with all practices and procedures established by Verizon for access to and use of Verizon OSS Facilities (including, but not limited to, Verizon practices and procedures with regard to security and use of access and user identification codes).
  - 8.4.6 All practices and procedures for access to and use of Verizon OSS Facilities, and all access and user identification codes for Verizon OSS Facilities: (a) shall remain the property of Verizon; (b) shall be used by Northstar only in connection with Northstar's use of Verizon OSS Facilities permitted by this Section 8; (c) shall be treated by Northstar as Confidential Information of Verizon pursuant to Section 10 of the General Terms and Conditions; and, (d) shall be destroyed or returned by Northstar to Verizon upon the earlier of request by Verizon or the expiration or termination of this Agreement.
  - 8.4.7 Northstar's employees, agents and contractors may access and use Verizon OSS Facilities only to the extent necessary for Northstar's access to and use of the Verizon OSS Facilities permitted by this Agreement. Any access to or use of Verizon OSS Facilities by Northstar's employees, agents, or contractors, shall be subject to the provisions of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, Section 10 of the General Terms and Conditions and Section 8.5.3.2 of this Attachment.
- 8.5 Verizon OSS Information.
- 8.5.1 Subject to the provisions of this Section 8, in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law, Verizon grants to Northstar a non-exclusive license to use Verizon OSS Information.
  - 8.5.2 All Verizon OSS Information shall at all times remain the property of Verizon. Except as expressly stated in this Section 8, Northstar shall acquire no rights in or to any Verizon OSS Information.
  - 8.5.3 The provisions of this Section 8.5.3 shall apply to all Verizon OSS Information, except (a) Northstar Usage Information, (b) CPNI of Northstar, and (c) CPNI of a Verizon Customer or a Northstar Customer, to the extent the Customer has authorized Northstar to use the CPNI.
    - 8.5.3.1 Verizon OSS Information may be accessed and used by Northstar only to provide Telecommunications Services to Northstar Customers.
    - 8.5.3.2 Northstar shall treat Verizon OSS Information that is designated by Verizon, through written or electronic notice (including, but not limited to, through the Verizon OSS Services), as "Confidential" or "Proprietary" as Confidential Information of Verizon pursuant to Section 10 of the General Terms and Conditions.
    - 8.5.3.3 Except as expressly stated in this Section 8, this Agreement does not grant to Northstar any right or license to grant sublicenses to other persons, or permission to other persons (except Northstar's employees, agents or contractors, in accordance with Section 8.5.3.4 of this

Attachment), to access, use or disclose Verizon OSS Information.

- 8.5.3.4 Northstar's employees, agents and contractors may access, use and disclose Verizon OSS Information only to the extent necessary for Northstar's access to, and use and disclosure of, Verizon OSS Information permitted by this Section 8. Any access to, or use or disclosure of, Verizon OSS Information by Northstar's employees, agents or contractors, shall be subject to the provisions of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, Section 10 of the General Terms and Conditions and Section 8.5.3.2 of this Attachment.
  - 8.5.3.5 Northstar's license to use Verizon OSS Information shall expire upon the earliest of: (a) the time when the Verizon OSS Information is no longer needed by Northstar to provide Telecommunications Services to Northstar Customers; (b) termination of the license in accordance with this Section 8; or (c) expiration or termination of this Agreement.
  - 8.5.3.6 All Verizon OSS Information received by Northstar shall be destroyed or returned by Northstar to Verizon, upon expiration, suspension or termination of the license to use such Verizon OSS Information.
- 8.5.4 Unless sooner terminated or suspended in accordance with this Agreement or this Section 8 (including, but not limited to, Section 2.2 of the General Terms and Conditions and Section 8.6.1 of this Attachment), Northstar's access to Verizon OSS Information through Verizon OSS Services shall terminate upon the expiration or termination of this Agreement.
- 8.5.5 Audits.
- 8.5.5.1 Verizon shall have the right (but not the obligation) to audit Northstar to ascertain whether Northstar is complying with the requirements of Applicable Law and this Agreement with regard to Northstar's access to, and use and disclosure of, Verizon OSS Information.
  - 8.5.5.2 Without in any way limiting any other rights Verizon may have under this Agreement or Applicable Law, Verizon shall have the right (but not the obligation) to monitor Northstar's access to and use of Verizon OSS Information which is made available by Verizon to Northstar pursuant to this Agreement, to ascertain whether Northstar is complying with the requirements of Applicable Law and this Agreement, with regard to Northstar's access to, and use and disclosure of, such Verizon OSS Information. The foregoing right shall include, but not be limited to, the right (but not the obligation) to electronically monitor Northstar's access to and use of Verizon OSS Information which is made available by Verizon to Northstar through Verizon OSS Facilities.

8.5.5.3 Information obtained by Verizon pursuant to this Section 8.5.5 shall be treated by Verizon as Confidential Information of Northstar pursuant to Section 10 of the General Terms and Conditions; provided that, Verizon shall have the right (but not the obligation) to use and disclose information obtained by Verizon pursuant to Section 8.5.5 of this Attachment to enforce Verizon's rights under this Agreement or Applicable Law.

8.5.6 Northstar acknowledges that the Verizon OSS Information, by its nature, is updated and corrected on a continuous basis by Verizon, and therefore that Verizon OSS Information is subject to change from time to time.

## 8.6 Liabilities and Remedies.

8.6.1 Any breach by Northstar, or Northstar's employees, agents or contractors, of the provisions of Sections 8.4 or 8.5 of this Attachment shall be deemed a material breach of this Agreement. In addition, if Northstar or an employee, agent or contractor of Northstar at any time breaches a provision of Sections 8.4 or 8.5 of this Attachment and such breach continues for more than ten (10) days after written notice thereof from Verizon, then, except as otherwise required by Applicable Law, Verizon shall have the right, upon notice to Northstar, to suspend the license to use Verizon OSS Information granted by Section 8.5.1 of this Attachment and/or the provision of Verizon OSS Services, in whole or in part.

8.6.2 Northstar agrees that Verizon would be irreparably injured by a breach of Sections 8.4 or 8.5 of this Attachment by Northstar or the employees, agents or contractors of Northstar, and that Verizon shall be entitled to seek equitable relief, including injunctive relief and specific performance, in the event of any such breach. Such remedies shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedies for any such breach, but shall be in addition to any other remedies available under this Agreement or at law or in equity.

## 8.7 Relation to Applicable Law.

The provisions of Sections 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6 of this Attachment with regard to the confidentiality of information shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any provisions of Applicable Law with regard to the confidentiality of information, including, but not limited to, 47 U.S.C. § 222, and are not intended to constitute a waiver by Verizon of any right with regard to protection of the confidentiality of the information of Verizon or Verizon Customers provided by Applicable Law.

## 8.8 Cooperation.

Northstar, at Northstar's expense, shall reasonably cooperate with Verizon in using Verizon OSS Services. Such cooperation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

8.8.1 Upon request by Verizon, Northstar shall by no later than the fifteenth (15th) day of the last month of each Calendar Quarter submit to Verizon reasonable, good faith estimates of the volume of each type of OSS transaction that Northstar anticipates submitting in each week of the next Calendar Quarter.

- 8.8.2 Northstar shall reasonably cooperate with Verizon in submitting orders for Verizon Services and otherwise using the Verizon OSS Services, in order to avoid exceeding the capacity or capabilities of such Verizon OSS Services.
  - 8.8.3 Northstar shall participate in cooperative testing of Verizon OSS Services and shall provide assistance to Verizon in identifying and correcting mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors, defects, faults, failures, or other deficiencies, in Verizon OSS Services.
- 8.9 Verizon Access to Information Related to Northstar Customers.
- 8.9.1 Verizon shall have the right to access, use and disclose information related to Northstar Customers that is in Verizon's possession (including, but not limited to, in Verizon OSS Facilities) to the extent such access, use and/or disclosure has been authorized by the Northstar Customer in the manner required by Applicable Law.
  - 8.9.2 Upon request by Verizon, Northstar shall negotiate in good faith and enter into a contract with Verizon, pursuant to which Verizon may obtain access to Northstar's operations support systems (including, systems for pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair, and billing) and information contained in such systems, to permit Verizon to obtain information related to Northstar Customers (as authorized by the applicable Northstar Customer), to permit Customers to transfer service from one Telecommunications Carrier to another, and for such other purposes as may be permitted by Applicable Law.
- 8.10 Verizon Pre-OSS Services.
- 8.10.1 As used in this Section 8, "Verizon Pre-OSS Service" means a service which allows the performance of an activity which is comparable to an activity to be performed through a Verizon OSS Service and which Verizon offers to provide to Northstar prior to, or in lieu of, Verizon's provision of the Verizon OSS Service to Northstar. The term "Verizon Pre-OSS Service" includes, but is not limited to, the activity of placing orders for Verizon Services through a telephone facsimile communication.
  - 8.10.2 Subject to the requirements of Applicable Law, the Verizon Pre-OSS Services that will be offered by Verizon shall be as determined by Verizon and Verizon shall have the right to change Verizon Pre-OSS Services, from time-to-time, without the consent of Northstar.
  - 8.10.3 Subject to the requirements of Applicable Law, the rates for Verizon Pre-OSS Services shall be as determined by Verizon and shall be subject to change by Verizon from time to time.
  - 8.10.4 The provisions of Sections 8.4 through 8.8 of this Attachment shall also apply to Verizon Pre-OSS Services. For the purposes of this Section 8.10: (a) references in Sections 8.4 through 8.8 of this Attachment to Verizon OSS Services shall be deemed to include Verizon Pre-OSS Services; and, (b) references in Sections 8.4 through 8.8 of this Attachment to Verizon OSS Information shall be deemed to include information made available to Northstar through Verizon Pre-OSS Services.



8.11 Cancellations.

Verizon may cancel orders for service which have had no activity within thirty-one (31) consecutive calendar days after the original service due date.

**9. Poles, Ducts, Conduits and Rights-of-Way**

9.1 Verizon shall afford Northstar non-discriminatory access to poles, ducts, conduits and rights-of-way owned or controlled by Verizon. Such access shall be provided in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law, pursuant to Verizon's applicable Tariffs, or, in the absence of an applicable Verizon Tariff, Verizon's generally offered form of license agreement, or, in the absence of such a Tariff and license agreement, a mutually acceptable agreement to be negotiated by the Parties.

9.2 Northstar shall afford Verizon non-discriminatory access to poles, ducts, conduits and rights-of-way owned or controlled by Northstar. Such access shall be provided pursuant to Northstar's applicable Tariffs, or, in the absence of an applicable Northstar Tariff, Northstar's generally offered form of license agreement, or, in the absence of such a Tariff and license agreement, a mutually acceptable agreement to be negotiated by the Parties. The terms, conditions and prices offered to Verizon by Northstar for such access shall be no less favorable than the terms, conditions and prices offered to Northstar by Verizon for access to poles, ducts, conduits and rights of way owned or controlled by Verizon.

**10. Telephone Numbers**

10.1 This Section applies in connection with Northstar Customers served by Telecommunications Services provided by Verizon to Northstar for resale or a Local Switching Network Element provided by Verizon to Northstar.

10.2 Northstar's use of telephone numbers shall be subject to Applicable Law the rules of the North American Numbering Council and the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, the applicable provisions of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, this Section 10), and Verizon's practices and procedures for use and assignment of telephone numbers, as amended from time-to-time.

10.3 Subject to Sections 10.2 and 10.4 of this Attachment, if a Customer of either Verizon or Northstar who is served by a Verizon Telecommunications Service ("VTS") or a Verizon Local Switching Network Element ("VLSNE") changes the LEC that serves the Customer using such VTS or VLSNE (including a change from Verizon to Northstar, from Northstar to Verizon, or from Northstar to a LEC other than Verizon), after such change, the Customer may continue to use with such VTS or VLSNE the telephone numbers that were assigned to the VTS or VLSNE for the use of such Customer by Verizon immediately prior to the change.

10.4 Verizon shall have the right to change the telephone numbers used by a Customer if at any time: (a) the Customer requests service at a new location, that is not served by the Verizon switch and the Verizon rate center from which the Customer previously had service; (b) continued use of the telephone numbers is not technically feasible; or, (c) in the case of Telecommunications Service provided by Verizon to Northstar for resale, the type or class of service subscribed to by the Customer changes.

- 10.5 If service on a VTS or VLSNE provided by Verizon to Northstar under this Agreement is terminated and the telephone numbers associated with such VTS or VLSNE have not been ported to a Northstar switch, the telephone numbers shall be available for reassignment by Verizon to any person to whom Verizon elects to assign the telephone numbers, including, but not limited to, Verizon, Verizon Customers, Northstar, or Telecommunications Carriers other than Verizon and Northstar.
- 10.6 Northstar may reserve telephone numbers only to the extent Verizon's Customers may reserve telephone numbers.

#### **11. Routing for Operator Services and Directory Assistance Traffic**

For a Verizon Telecommunications Service dial tone line purchased by Northstar for resale pursuant to the Resale Attachment, upon request by Northstar, Verizon will establish an arrangement that will permit Northstar to route the Northstar Customer's calls for operator and directory assistance services to a provider of operator and directory assistance services selected by Northstar. Verizon will provide this routing arrangement in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law. Verizon will provide this routing arrangement pursuant to an appropriate written request submitted by Northstar and a mutually agreed-upon schedule. This routing arrangement will be implemented at Northstar's expense, with charges determined on an individual case basis. In addition to charges for initially establishing the routing arrangement, Northstar will be responsible for ongoing monthly and/or usage charges for the routing arrangement. Northstar shall arrange, at its own expense, the trunking and other facilities required to transport traffic to Northstar's selected provider of operator and directory assistance services.

#### **12. Unauthorized Carrier Change Charges**

In the event either Party requests that the other Party install, provide, change, or terminate a Customer's Telecommunications Service (including, but not limited to, a Customer's selection of a primary Telephone Exchange Service Provider) without having obtained authorization from the Customer for such installation, provision, selection, change or termination in accordance with Applicable Laws, the requesting Party shall be liable to the other Party for all charges that would be applicable to the Customer for the initial change in the Customer's Telecommunications Service and any charges for restoring the Customer's Telecommunications Service to its Customer-authorized condition (all such charges together, the "Carrier Change Charges"), including to the appropriate primary Telephone Exchange Service provider. Such Carrier Change Charges may be assessed on the requesting Party by the other Party at any time after the Customer is restored to its Customer-authorized condition.

#### **13. Good Faith Performance**

If and, to the extent that, Verizon, prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement, has not provided in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a Service offered under this Attachment, Verizon reserves the right to negotiate in good faith with Northstar reasonable terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes) for such Service; and, if the Parties cannot agree to such terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes), either Party may utilize the Agreement's dispute resolution procedures.

## **INTERCONNECTION ATTACHMENT**

### **1. General**

Each Party shall provide to the other Party, in accordance with this Agreement, but only to the extent required by Applicable Law, interconnection at (i) any technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA and/or (ii) a fiber meet point to which the Parties mutually agree under the terms of this Agreement, for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service and Exchange Access. By way of example, a technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA would include an applicable Verizon Tandem Wire Center or Verizon End Office Wire Center but, notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement or otherwise, would not include a Northstar Wire Center, Northstar switch or any portion of a transport facility provided by Verizon to Northstar or another party between (x) a Verizon Wire Center or switch and (y) the Wire Center or switch of Northstar or another party. For brevity's sake, the foregoing examples of locations that, respectively, are and are not "on Verizon's network" shall apply (and are hereby incorporated by reference) each time the term "on Verizon's network" is used in this Agreement.

### **2. Points of Interconnection and Trunk Types**

#### **2.1 Point(s) of Interconnection.**

2.1.1 Each Party, at its own expense, shall provide transport facilities to the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA selected by Northstar.

#### **2.2 Trunk Types.**

2.2.1 In interconnecting their networks pursuant to this Attachment, the Parties will use, as appropriate, the following separate and distinct trunk groups:

2.2.1.1 Interconnection Trunks for the transmission and routing of Reciprocal Compensation Traffic, translated LEC IntraLATA toll free service access code (e.g., 800/888/877) traffic, and IntraLATA Toll Traffic, between their respective Telephone Exchange Service Customers, Tandem Transit Traffic, and, Measured Internet Traffic, all in accordance with Sections 5 through 8 of this Attachment;

2.2.1.2 Access Toll Connecting Trunks for the transmission and routing of Exchange Access traffic, including translated InterLATA toll free service access code (e.g., 800/888/877) traffic, between Northstar Telephone Exchange Service Customers and purchasers of Switched Exchange Access Service via a Verizon access Tandem in accordance with Sections 9 through 11 of this Attachment; and

2.2.1.3 Miscellaneous Trunk Groups as mutually agreed to by the Parties, including, but not limited to: (a) choke trunks for traffic congestion and testing; and, (b) untranslated IntraLATA/InterLATA toll free service access code (e.g. 800/888/877) traffic.

- 2.2.2 Other types of trunk groups may be used by the Parties as provided in other Attachments to this Agreement (e.g., 911/E911 Trunks) or in other separate agreements between the Parties (e.g., directory assistance trunks, operator services trunks, BLV/BLVI trunks or trunks for 500/555 traffic).
  - 2.2.3 In accordance with the terms of this Agreement, the Parties will deploy One-Way Interconnection Trunks (trunks with traffic going in one direction, including one-way trunks and uni-directional two-way trunks) and/or Two-Way Interconnection Trunks (trunks with traffic going in both directions).
  - 2.2.4 Northstar shall establish, at the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA, separate Interconnection Trunk group(s) between such POI(s) and each Verizon Tandem in a LATA with a subtending End Office(s) to which Northstar originates calls for Verizon to terminate.
  - 2.2.5 In the event the volume of traffic between a Verizon End Office and a technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA, which is carried by a Final Meet Point B Interconnection Trunk group, exceeds (a) the Centium Call Seconds (Hundred Call Seconds) busy hour equivalent of one (1) DS1 at any time; (b) 200,000 minutes of use for a single month; and/or; (c) 600 busy hour Centium Call Seconds (BHCCS) of use for a single month: (i) if One-Way Interconnection Trunks are used, the originating Party shall promptly establish new or augment existing Meet Point A One-Way Interconnection Trunk groups between the Verizon End Office and the technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network; or, (ii) if Two-Way Interconnection Trunks are used, Northstar shall promptly submit an ASR to Verizon to establish new or augment existing Meet Point A Two-Way Interconnection Trunk group(s) between that Verizon End Office and the technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network.
  - 2.2.6 Except as otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties, the total number of Meet Point B Interconnection Trunks between a technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network and a Verizon Tandem will be limited to a maximum of 240 trunks. In the event that the volume of traffic between a technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network and a Verizon Tandem exceeds, or reasonably can be expected to exceed, the capacity of the 240 trunks, Northstar shall promptly submit an ASR to Verizon to establish new or additional Meet Point A Trunks to insure that the volume of traffic between the technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network and the Verizon Tandem does not exceed the capacity of the 240 trunks.
- 2.3 One-Way Interconnection Trunks.
- 2.3.1 Where the Parties use One-Way Interconnection Trunks for the delivery of traffic from Northstar to Verizon, Northstar, at Northstar's own expense, shall:
    - 2.3.1.1 provide its own facilities for delivery of the traffic to the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA; and/or

- 2.3.1.2 obtain transport for delivery of the traffic to the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA (a) from a third party, or, (b) if Verizon offers such transport pursuant to this Agreement or an applicable Verizon Tariff, from Verizon; and/or
  - 2.3.2 For each Tandem or End Office One-Way Interconnection Trunk group for delivery of traffic from Northstar to Verizon with a utilization level of less than sixty percent (60%) for final trunk groups and eighty-five percent (85%) for high usage trunk groups, unless the Parties agree otherwise, Northstar will promptly submit ASRs to disconnect a sufficient number of Interconnection Trunks to attain a utilization level of approximately sixty percent (60%) for all final trunk groups and eighty-five (85%) for all high usage trunk groups. In the event Northstar fails to submit an ASR to disconnect One-Way Interconnection Trunks as required by this Section, Verizon may disconnect the excess Interconnection Trunks or bill (and Northstar shall pay) for the excess Interconnection Trunks at the rates set forth in the Pricing Attachment.
  - 2.3.3 Where the Parties use One-Way Interconnection Trunks for the delivery of traffic from Verizon to Northstar, Verizon, at Verizon's own expense, shall provide its own facilities for delivery of the traffic to the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA.
- 2.4 Two-Way Interconnection Trunks.
  - 2.4.1 Where the Parties use Two-Way Interconnection Trunks for the exchange of traffic between Verizon and Northstar, Northstar, at its own expense, shall:
    - 2.4.1.1 provide its own facilities to the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA; and/or
    - 2.4.1.2 obtain transport to the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA (a) from a third party, or, (b) if Verizon offers such transport pursuant to this Agreement or an applicable Verizon Tariff, from Verizon.
  - 2.4.2 Where the Parties use Two-Way Interconnection Trunks for the exchange of traffic between Verizon and Northstar, Verizon, at its own expense, shall provide its own facilities to the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA.
  - 2.4.3 Prior to establishing any Two-Way Interconnection Trunks, Northstar shall meet with Verizon to conduct a joint planning meeting ("Joint Planning Meeting"). At that Joint Planning Meeting, each Party shall provide to the other Party originating Centium Call Seconds (Hundred Call Seconds) information, and the Parties shall mutually agree on the appropriate initial number of Meet Point A (high usage) and Meet Point B (final) Two-Way Interconnection Trunks and the interface specifications at the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA at which the Parties interconnect for the exchange of traffic. Where the Parties have agreed to convert existing One-Way Interconnection Trunks to Two-Way Interconnection Trunks,

at the Joint Planning Meeting, the Parties shall also mutually agree on the conversion process and project intervals for conversion of such One-Way Interconnection Trunks to Two-Way Interconnection Trunks.

- 2.4.4 On a semi-annual basis, Northstar shall submit a good faith forecast to Verizon of the number of Meet Point A (high usage) and Meet Point B (final) Two-Way Interconnection Trunks that Northstar anticipates Verizon will need to provide during the ensuing two (2) year period for the exchange of traffic between Northstar and Verizon. Northstar's trunk forecasts shall conform to the Verizon CLEC trunk forecasting guidelines as in effect at that time.
- 2.4.5 The Parties shall meet (telephonically or in person) from time to time, as needed, to review data on Meet Point A (high usage) and Meet Point B (final) Two-Way Interconnection Trunks to determine the need for new trunk groups and to plan any necessary changes in the number of Two-Way Interconnection Trunks.
- 2.4.6 Two-Way Interconnection Trunks shall have SS7 Common Channel Signaling. The Parties agree to utilize B8ZS and Extended Super Frame (ESF) DS1 facilities, where available.
- 2.4.7 With respect to Meet Point A (high usage) Two-Way Interconnection Trunks, both Parties shall use an economic Centium Call Seconds (Hundred Call Seconds) equal to five (5). Either Party may disconnect End Office Two-Way Interconnection Trunks that, based on reasonable engineering criteria and capacity constraints, are not warranted by the actual traffic volume experienced.
- 2.4.8 Meet Point B Two-Way Interconnection Trunk groups that connect to a Verizon access Tandem shall be engineered using a design blocking objective of Neal-Wilkinson B.005 during the average time consistent busy hour. Meet Point B Two-Way Interconnection Trunk groups that connect to a Verizon local Tandem shall be engineered using a design blocking objective of Neal-Wilkinson B.01 during the average time consistent busy hour. Verizon and Northstar shall engineer Two-Way Interconnection Trunks using Telcordia Notes on the Networks SR 2275 (formerly known as BOC Notes on the LEC Networks SR-TSV-002275).
- 2.4.9 The performance standard for Meet Point B Two-Way Interconnection Trunk groups shall be that no such Interconnection Trunk group will exceed its design blocking objective (B.005 or B.01, as applicable) for three (3) consecutive calendar traffic study months.
- 2.4.10 Northstar shall determine and order the number of Two-Way Interconnection Trunks that are required to meet the applicable design blocking objective for all traffic carried on each Two-Way Interconnection Trunk group. Northstar shall order Two-Way Interconnection Trunks by submitting ASRs to Verizon setting forth the number of Two-Way Interconnection Trunks to be installed and the requested installation dates within Verizon's effective standard intervals or negotiated intervals, as appropriate. Northstar shall complete ASRs in accordance with OBF Guidelines as in effect from time to time.

- 2.4.11 Verizon may (but shall not be obligated to) monitor Two-Way Interconnection Trunk groups using service results for the applicable design blocking objective. If Verizon observes blocking in excess of the applicable design objective on any Meet Point B (final) Two-Way Interconnection Trunk group and Northstar has not notified Verizon that it has corrected such blocking, Verizon may submit to Northstar a Trunk Group Service Request directing Northstar to remedy the blocking. Upon receipt of a Trunk Group Service Request, Northstar will complete an ASR to establish or augment the Meet Point A Two-Way Interconnection Trunk group(s), or, if mutually agreed, to augment the Meet Point B Two-Way Interconnection Trunk group with excessive blocking and submit the ASR to Verizon within five (5) Business Days.
- 2.4.12 The Parties will review all Meet Point B Two-Way Interconnection Trunk groups that reach a utilization level of seventy percent (70%), or greater, to determine whether those groups should be augmented. Northstar will promptly augment all Meet Point B Two-Way Interconnection Trunk groups that reach a utilization level of eighty percent (80%) by submitting ASRs for additional trunks sufficient to attain a utilization level of approximately seventy percent (70%), unless the Parties agree that additional trunking is not required. For each Meet Point B Two-Way Interconnection Trunk group with a utilization level of less than sixty percent (60%), unless the Parties agree otherwise, Northstar will promptly submit ASRs to disconnect a sufficient number of Interconnection Trunks to attain a utilization level of approximately sixty percent (60%) for each respective group, unless the Parties agree that the Two-Way Interconnection Trunks should not be disconnected. In the event Northstar fails to submit an ASR for Two-Way Interconnection Trunks in conformance with this Section, Verizon may disconnect the excess Interconnection Trunks or bill (and Northstar shall pay) for the excess Interconnection Trunks at the applicable Verizon rates.
- 2.4.13 Because Verizon will not be in control of when and how many Two-Way Interconnection Trunks are established between its network and Northstar's network, Verizon's performance in connection with these Two-Way Interconnection Trunk groups shall not be subject to any performance measurements and remedies under this Agreement, and, except as otherwise required by Applicable Law, under any FCC or Commission approved carrier-to-carrier performance assurance guidelines or plan.
- 2.4.14 Northstar will route its traffic to Verizon over the Meet Point A and/or Meet Point B Two-Way Interconnection Trunks in accordance with SR-TAP-000191, including but not limited to those standards requiring that a call from Northstar to a Verizon End Office will first be routed to the Meet Point A Interconnection Trunk group between Northstar and the Verizon End Office.

### **3. Alternative Interconnection Arrangements**

#### **3.1 Fiber Meet Arrangement Provisions.**

- 3.1.1 Either Party may request a Fiber Meet arrangement by providing written notice thereof to the other Party; provided, however, that a Party may not make such a request if the Parties have not consistently been exchanging an amount of applicable traffic (as set forth in Section

3.1.3 below) equal to at least one (1) DS-3. Any such Fiber Meet arrangement shall be subject to the terms of this Agreement. In addition, the establishment of any Fiber Meet arrangement is expressly conditioned upon the Parties' mutually agreeing to the technical specifications and requirements for such Fiber Meet arrangement including, but not limited to, the location of the Fiber Meet points, routing, equipment (e.g., specifications of Add/Drop Multiplexers, number of strands of fiber, etc.), software, ordering, provisioning, maintenance, repair, testing, augment and on any other technical specifications or requirements necessary to implement the Fiber Meet arrangement. For each Fiber Meet arrangement the Parties agree to implement, the Parties will complete and sign a Technical Specifications and Requirements document, the form of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A to Section 2.4.14 of the Interconnection Attachment Fiber Meet Arrangement Provisions. Each such document will be treated as confidential information.

- 3.1.2 The Parties agree to consider the possibility of using existing fiber cable with spare capacity, where available, to implement any such request for a Fiber Meet arrangement. If existing fiber cable with spare capacity is not available, the Parties agree to minimize the construction and deployment of fiber cable necessary for any Fiber Meet arrangement to which they agree. Except as otherwise agreed by the Parties, any and all Fiber Meet points established between the Parties shall extend no further than three (3) miles from an applicable Verizon Wire Center and Verizon shall not be required to construct or deploy more than five hundred (500) feet of fiber cable for a Fiber Meet arrangement.
- 3.1.3 Except as otherwise agreed by the Parties, any Fiber Meet arrangements established under this Agreement shall be used only for the transmission and routing of Reciprocal Compensation Traffic, translated LEC IntraLATA toll free service access code (e.g., 800/888/877) traffic, and IntraLATA toll traffic, between their respective Telephone Exchange Service Customers, Tandem Transit Traffic, and Measured Internet Traffic, all in accordance with this Agreement. Operator services/directory assistance traffic, 911 traffic, and Exchange Access traffic, including translated InterLATA toll free service access code (e.g., 800/888/877) traffic, between Northstar Telephone Exchange Service Customers and purchasers of Switched Exchange Access Service via a Verizon access Tandem, may be exchanged over Fiber Meet arrangements subject to applicable Verizon Tariff rates and charges. Except as otherwise agreed by the Parties, point-to-point (*i.e.*, unswitched) access services and unbundled network elements shall not be provisioned on or accessed through Fiber Meet arrangements. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement or otherwise, other than the obligation to pay any applicable intercarrier compensation charges pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, neither Party shall have any obligation to pay the other Party any charges in connection with any Fiber Meet arrangements established under this Agreement.
- 3.1.4 Northstar will include traffic to be exchanged over Fiber Meet arrangements in its forecasts provided to Verizon under this Agreement.



#### **4. Initiating Interconnection**

- 4.1 If Northstar determines to offer Telephone Exchange Services and to interconnect with Verizon in any LATA in which Verizon also offers Telephone Exchange Services and in which the Parties are not already interconnected pursuant to this Agreement, Northstar shall provide written notice to Verizon of the need to establish Interconnection in such LATA pursuant to this Agreement.
- 4.2 The notice provided in Section 4.1 of this Attachment shall include (a) the initial Routing Point(s); (b) the applicable technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network to be established in the relevant LATA in accordance with this Agreement; (c) Northstar's intended Interconnection activation date; (d) a forecast of Northstar's trunking requirements conforming to Section 14.2 of this Attachment; and (e) such other information as Verizon shall reasonably request in order to facilitate Interconnection.
- 4.3 The interconnection activation date in the new LATA shall be mutually agreed to by the Parties after receipt by Verizon of all necessary information as indicated above. Within ten (10) Business Days of Verizon's receipt of Northstar's notice provided for in Section 4.1 of this Attachment, Verizon and Northstar shall confirm the technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network in the new LATA and the mutually agreed upon Interconnection activation date for the new LATA.

#### **5. Transmission and Routing of Telephone Exchange Service Traffic**

##### **5.1 Scope of Traffic.**

Section 5 prescribes parameters for Interconnection Trunks used for Interconnection pursuant to Sections 2 through 4 of this Attachment.

##### **5.2 Trunk Group Connections and Ordering.**

- 5.2.1 For both One-Way and Two-Way Interconnection Trunks, if Northstar wishes to use a technically feasible interface other than a DS1 or a DS3 facility at the POI, the Parties shall negotiate reasonable terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes) for such arrangement; and, if the Parties cannot agree to such terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes), either Party may utilize the Agreement's dispute resolution procedures.
- 5.2.2 When One-Way or Two-Way Interconnection Trunks are provisioned using a DS3 interface facility, if Northstar orders the multiplexed DS3 facilities to a Verizon Central Office that is not designated in the NECA 4 Tariff as the appropriate Intermediate Hub location (i.e., the Intermediate Hub location in the appropriate Tandem subtending area based on the LERG), and the provision of such facilities to the subject Central Office is technically feasible, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith reasonable terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes) for such arrangement; and, if the Parties cannot agree to such terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes), either Party may utilize the Agreement's dispute resolution procedures.

- 5.2.3 Each Party will identify its Carrier Identification Code, a three or four digit numeric code obtained from Telcordia, to the other Party when ordering a trunk group.
- 5.2.4 When SS7 signaling is not used, unless mutually agreed to by both Parties, each Party will outpulse ten (10) digits to the other Party.
- 5.2.5 Each Party will use commercially reasonable efforts to monitor trunk groups under its control and to augment those groups using generally accepted trunk-engineering standards so as to not exceed blocking objectives. Each Party agrees to use modular trunk-engineering techniques for trunks subject to this Attachment.

5.3 Switching System Hierarchy and Trunking Requirements.

For purposes of routing Northstar traffic to Verizon, the subtending arrangements between Verizon Tandems and Verizon End Offices shall be the same as the Tandem/End Office subtending arrangements Verizon maintains for the routing of its own or other carriers' traffic (i.e., traffic will be routed to the appropriate Verizon Tandem subtended by the terminating End Office serving the Verizon Customer). For purposes of routing Verizon traffic to Northstar, the subtending arrangements between Northstar Tandems and Northstar End Offices shall be the same as the Tandem/End Office subtending arrangements that Northstar maintains for the routing of its own or other carriers' traffic.

5.4 Signaling.

Each Party will provide the other Party with access to its databases and associated signaling necessary for the routing and completion of the other Party's traffic in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and any applicable Tariff.

5.5 Grades of Service.

The Parties shall initially engineer and shall monitor and augment all trunk groups consistent with the Joint Process as set forth in Section 14.1 of this Attachment.

**6. Traffic Measurement and Billing over Interconnection Trunks**

6.1 For billing purposes, each Party shall pass Calling Party Number (CPN) information on at least ninety-five percent (95%) of calls carried over the Interconnection Trunks.

6.1.1 As used in this Section 6, "Traffic Rate" means the applicable Reciprocal Compensation Traffic rate, Measured Internet Traffic rate, intrastate Switched Exchange Access Service rate, interstate Switched Exchange Access Service rate, or intrastate/interstate Tandem Transit Traffic rate, as provided in the Pricing Attachment, an applicable Tariff, or, for Measured Internet Traffic, the FCC Internet Order.

6.1.2 If the originating Party passes CPN on ninety-five percent (95%) or more of its calls, the receiving Party shall bill the originating Party the Traffic Rate applicable to each relevant minute of traffic for which CPN is passed. For any remaining (up to 5%) calls without CPN information, the receiving Party shall bill the originating Party for such traffic at the Traffic Rate applicable to each relevant minute of traffic, in

direct proportion to the minutes of use of calls passed with CPN information.

- 6.1.3 If the originating Party passes CPN on less than ninety-five percent (95%) of its calls and the originating Party chooses to combine Reciprocal Compensation Traffic and Toll Traffic on the same trunk group, the receiving Party shall bill the higher of its interstate Switched Exchange Access Service rates or its intrastate Switched Exchange Access Services rates for all traffic that is passed without CPN, unless the Parties agree that other rates should apply to such traffic.
- 6.2 At such time as a receiving Party has the capability, on an automated basis, to use such CPN to classify traffic delivered over Interconnection Trunks by the other Party by Traffic Rate type (e.g., Reciprocal Compensation Traffic/Measured Internet Traffic, intrastate Switched Exchange Access Service, interstate Switched Exchange Access Service, or intrastate/interstate Tandem Transit Traffic), such receiving Party shall bill the originating Party the Traffic Rate applicable to each relevant minute of traffic for which CPN is passed. If the receiving Party lacks the capability, on an automated basis, to use CPN information on an automated basis to classify traffic delivered by the other Party by Traffic Rate type, the originating Party will supply Traffic Factor 1 and Traffic Factor 2. The Traffic Factors shall be supplied in writing by the originating Party within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date and shall be updated in writing by the originating Party quarterly. Measurement of billing minutes for purposes of determining terminating compensation shall be in conversation seconds (the time in seconds that the Parties equipment is used for a completed call, measured from the receipt of answer supervision to the receipt of disconnect supervision). Measurement of billing minutes for originating toll free service access code (e.g., 800/888/877) calls shall be in accordance with applicable Tariffs. Determination as to whether traffic is Reciprocal Compensation Traffic or Measured Internet Traffic shall be made in accordance with Paragraphs 8 and 79, and other applicable provisions, of the FCC Internet Order (including, but not limited to, in accordance with the rebuttable presumption established by the FCC Internet Order that traffic delivered to a carrier that exceeds a 3:1 ratio of terminating to originating traffic is Measured Internet Traffic, and in accordance with the process established by the FCC Internet Order for rebutting such presumption before the Commission).
- 6.3 Each Party reserves the right to audit all Traffic, up to a maximum of two audits per Calendar Year, to ensure that rates are being applied appropriately; provided, however, that either Party shall have the right to conduct additional audit(s) if the preceding audit disclosed material errors or discrepancies. Each Party agrees to provide the necessary Traffic data in conjunction with any such audit in a timely manner.
- 6.4 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit either Party's ability to designate the areas within which that Party's Customers may make calls which that Party rates as "local" in its Customer Tariffs.
- 6.5 If and, to the extent that, a Northstar Customer receives V/FX Traffic, Northstar shall promptly provide notice thereof to Verizon (such notice to include, without limitation, the specific telephone number(s) that the Customer uses for V/FX Traffic, as well as the LATA in which the Customer's station is actually physically located) and shall not bill Verizon Reciprocal Compensation, intercarrier compensation or any other charges for calls placed by Verizon's Customers to such Northstar Customers.

## **7. Reciprocal Compensation Arrangements Pursuant to Section 251(b)(5) of the Act**

### **7.1 Reciprocal Compensation.**

The Parties shall exchange Reciprocal Compensation Traffic at the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA designated in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. The Party originating Reciprocal Compensation Traffic shall compensate the terminating Party for the transport and termination of such traffic to its Customer in accordance with Section 251(b)(5) of the Act at the equal and symmetrical rates stated in the Pricing Attachment; it being understood and agreed that Verizon shall charge (and Northstar shall pay Verizon) the End Office Reciprocal Compensation rate set forth in the Pricing Attachment for Reciprocal Compensation Traffic Northstar physically delivers to a POI at the Verizon Wire Center in which the terminating Verizon End Office is located, and otherwise that Verizon shall charge (Northstar shall pay Verizon) the Tandem Reciprocal Compensation rate set forth in the Pricing Attachment for Reciprocal Compensation Traffic Northstar delivers to Verizon; it also being understood and agreed that Northstar shall charge (and Verizon shall pay Northstar) the End Office Reciprocal Compensation rate set forth in the Pricing Attachment for Reciprocal Compensation Traffic Verizon delivers to Northstar. These rates are to be applied at the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA at which the Parties interconnect, whether such traffic is delivered by Verizon for termination by Northstar, or delivered by Northstar for termination by Verizon. No additional charges shall be assessed by the terminating Party for the transport and termination of such traffic from the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA to its Customer; provided, however, for the avoidance of any doubt, Northstar shall also pay Verizon, at the rates set forth in the Pricing Attachment, for any multiplexing, cross connects or other collocation related Services that Northstar obtains from Verizon. When Toll Traffic is delivered over the same Interconnection Trunks as Reciprocal Compensation Traffic, any port, transport or other applicable access charges related to the delivery of Toll Traffic from the technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA to the terminating Party's Customer shall be prorated so as to apply only to the Toll Traffic. The designation of traffic as Reciprocal Compensation Traffic for purposes of Reciprocal Compensation shall be based on the actual originating and terminating points of the complete end-to-end communication.

### **7.2 Traffic Not Subject to Reciprocal Compensation.**

- 7.2.1 Reciprocal Compensation shall not apply to interstate or intrastate Exchange Access (including, without limitation, Virtual Foreign Exchange Traffic (i.e., V/FX Traffic), Information Access, or exchange services for Exchange Access or Information Access.
- 7.2.2 Reciprocal Compensation shall not apply to Internet Traffic.
- 7.2.3 Reciprocal Compensation shall not apply to Toll Traffic, including, but not limited to, calls originated on a 1+ presubscription basis, or on a casual dialed (10XXX/101XXX) basis.
- 7.2.4 Reciprocal Compensation shall not apply to Optional Extended Local Calling Scope Arrangement Traffic.
- 7.2.5 Reciprocal Compensation shall not apply to special access, private line, or any other traffic that is not switched by the terminating Party.

- 7.2.6 Reciprocal Compensation shall not apply to Tandem Transit Traffic.
  - 7.2.7 Reciprocal Compensation shall not apply to Voice Information Service Traffic (as defined in Section 5 of the Additional Services Attachment).
  - 7.2.8 Reciprocal Compensation shall not apply to traffic that is not subject to Reciprocal Compensation under Section 251(b)(5) of the Act.
  - 7.2.9 Reciprocal Compensation shall not apply to Virtual Foreign Exchange Traffic (i.e., V/FX Traffic). As used in this Agreement, "Virtual Foreign Exchange Traffic" or "V/FX Traffic" is defined as calls in which a Northstar Customer is assigned a telephone number with an NXX Code (as set forth in the LERG) associated with an exchange that is different than the exchange (as set forth in the LERG) associated with the actual physical location of such Customer's station. For the avoidance of any doubt, Northstar shall pay Verizon's originating access charges for all V/FX Traffic originated by a Verizon Customer, and Northstar shall pay Verizon's terminating access charges for all V/FX Traffic originated by a Northstar Customer.
- 7.3 The Reciprocal Compensation rates (including, but not limited to, the Reciprocal Compensation per minute of use charges) billed by Northstar to Verizon shall not exceed the Reciprocal Compensation rates (including, but not limited to, Reciprocal Compensation per minute of use charges) billed by Verizon to Northstar.

## **8. Other Types of Traffic**

- 8.1 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement or any Tariff: (a) the Parties' rights and obligations with respect to any intercarrier compensation that may be due in connection with their exchange of Internet Traffic shall be governed by the terms of the FCC Internet Order and other applicable FCC orders and FCC Regulations; and, (b) a Party shall not be obligated to pay any intercarrier compensation for Internet Traffic that is in excess of the intercarrier compensation for Internet Traffic that such Party is required to pay under the FCC Internet Order and other applicable FCC orders and FCC Regulations.
- 8.2 Subject to Section 8.1 of this Attachment, interstate and intrastate Exchange Access, Information Access, exchange services for Exchange Access or Information Access, and Toll Traffic, shall be governed by the applicable provisions of this Agreement and applicable Tariffs.
- 8.3 For any traffic originating with a third party carrier and delivered by Northstar to Verizon, Northstar shall pay Verizon the same amount that such third party carrier would have been obligated to pay Verizon for termination of that traffic at the location the traffic is delivered to Verizon by Northstar.
- 8.4 Any traffic not specifically addressed in this Agreement shall be treated as required by the applicable Tariff of the Party transporting and/or terminating the traffic.
- 8.5 The Parties may also exchange Internet Traffic at the technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA established hereunder for the exchange of Reciprocal Compensation Traffic. Any intercarrier compensation that may be due in connection with the Parties' exchange of Internet Traffic shall be applied at such technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA in accordance with the FCC Internet Order.

## **9. Transmission and Routing of Exchange Access Traffic**

### **9.1 Scope of Traffic.**

Section 9 prescribes parameters for certain trunks to be established over the Interconnections specified in Sections 2 through 5 of this Attachment for the transmission and routing of traffic between Northstar Telephone Exchange Service Customers and Interexchange Carriers ("Access Toll Connecting Trunks"), in any case where Northstar elects to have its End Office Switch subtend a Verizon Tandem. This includes casually-dialed (1010XXX and 101XXXX) traffic.

### **9.2 Access Toll Connecting Trunk Group Architecture.**

9.2.1 If Northstar chooses to subtend a Verizon access Tandem, Northstar's NPA/NXX must be assigned by Northstar to subtend the same Verizon access Tandem that a Verizon NPA/NXX serving the same Rate Center Area subtends as identified in the LERG.

9.2.2 Northstar shall establish Access Toll Connecting Trunks pursuant to applicable access Tariffs by which it will provide Switched Exchange Access Services to Interexchange Carriers to enable such Interexchange Carriers to originate and terminate traffic to and from Northstar's Customers.

9.2.3 The Access Toll Connecting Trunks shall be two-way trunks. Such trunks shall connect the End Office Northstar utilizes to provide Telephone Exchange Service and Switched Exchange Access to its Customers in a given LATA to the access Tandem(s) Verizon utilizes to provide Exchange Access in such LATA.

9.2.4 Access Toll Connecting Trunks shall be used solely for the transmission and routing of Exchange Access to allow Northstar's Customers to connect to or be connected to the interexchange trunks of any Interexchange Carrier which is connected to a Verizon access Tandem.

## **10. Meet-Point Billing Arrangements**

10.1 Northstar and Verizon will establish Meet-Point Billing (MPB) arrangements in order to provide a common transport option to Switched Exchange Access Services customers via a Verizon access Tandem Switch in accordance with the Meet Point Billing guidelines contained in the OBF's MECAB and MECOD documents, except as modified herein, and in Verizon's applicable Tariffs. The arrangements described in this Section 10 are intended to be used to provide Switched Exchange Access Service where the transport component of the Switched Exchange Access Service is routed through an access Tandem Switch that is provided by Verizon.

10.2 In each LATA, the Parties shall establish MPB arrangements for the applicable Northstar Routing Point/Verizon Serving Wire Center combinations.

10.3 Interconnection for the MPB arrangement shall occur at each of the Verizon access Tandems in the LATA, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties.

10.4 Northstar and Verizon will use reasonable efforts, individually and collectively, to maintain provisions in their respective state access Tariffs, and/or provisions

within the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) Tariff No. 4, or any successor Tariff sufficient to reflect the MPB arrangements established pursuant to this Agreement.

- 10.5 In general, there are four alternative Meet-Point Billing arrangements possible, which are: Single Bill/Single Tariff, Multiple Bill/Single Tariff, Multiple Bill/Multiple Tariff, and Single Bill/Multiple Tariff, as outlined in the OBF MECAB Guidelines.

Each Party shall implement the "Multiple Bill/Single Tariff" or "Multiple Bill/Multiple Tariff" option, as appropriate, in order to bill an IXC for the portion of the MPB arrangement provided by that Party. Alternatively, in former Bell Atlantic service areas, upon agreement of the Parties, each Party may use the New York State Access Pool on its behalf to implement the Single Bill/Multiple Tariff or Single Bill/Single Tariff option, as appropriate, in order to bill an IXC for the portion of the MPB arrangement provided by that Party.

- 10.6 The rates to be billed by each Party for the portion of the MPB arrangement provided by it shall be as set forth in that Party's applicable Tariffs, or other document that contains the terms under which that Party's access services are offered. For each Northstar Routing Point/Verizon Serving Wire Center combination, the MPB billing percentages for transport between the Northstar Routing Point and the Verizon Serving Wire Center shall be calculated in accordance with the formula set forth in Section 10.17 of this Attachment.
- 10.7 Each Party shall provide the other Party with the billing name, billing address, and Carrier Identification Code (CIC) of the IXC, and identification of the Verizon Wire Center serving the IXC in order to comply with the MPB notification process as outlined in the MECAB document.
- 10.8 Verizon shall provide Northstar with the Terminating Switched Access Detail Usage Data (EMI category 1101XX records) recorded at the Verizon access Tandem on cartridge or via such other media as the Parties may agree to, no later than ten (10) Business Days after the date the usage occurred.
- 10.9 Northstar shall provide Verizon with the Originating Switched Access Detail Usage Data (EMI category 1101XX records) on cartridge or via such other media as the Parties may agree, no later than ten (10) Business Days after the date the usage occurred.
- 10.10 All usage data to be provided pursuant to Sections 10.8 and 10.9 of this Attachment shall be sent to the following addresses:

To Northstar:

Matt O'Flaherty  
President  
1101 Hills Road  
Fremont, Nebraska 68025

For Verizon (Former BA service area):

New York State Access Pool  
C/O ACM, Inc.  
120 Erie Blvd.  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
Attn: Mark Ferri

Either Party may change its address for receiving usage data by notifying the other Party in writing pursuant to Section 29 of the General Terms and Conditions.

- 10.11 Northstar and Verizon shall coordinate and exchange the billing account reference (BAR) and billing account cross reference (BACR) numbers or Operating Company Number ("OCN"), as appropriate, for the MPB arrangements described in this Section 10. Each Party shall notify the other if the level of billing or other BAR/BACR elements change, resulting in a new BAR/BACR number, or if the OCN changes.
- 10.12 Each Party agrees to provide the other Party with notification of any errors it discovers in MPB data within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the original data. The other Party shall attempt to correct the error and resubmit the data within ten (10) Business Days of the notification. In the event the errors cannot be corrected within such ten- (10) Business-Day period, the erroneous data will be considered lost. In the event of a loss of data, whether due to uncorrectable errors or otherwise, both Parties shall cooperate to reconstruct the lost data and, if such reconstruction is not possible, shall accept a reasonable estimate of the lost data based upon prior usage data.
- 10.13 Either Party may request a review or audit of the various components of access recording up to a maximum of two (2) audits per calendar year. All costs associated with each review and audit shall be borne by the requesting Party. Such review or audit shall be conducted subject to Section 7 of the General Terms and Conditions and during regular business hours. A Party may conduct additional audits, at its expense, upon the other Party's consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- 10.14 Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, nothing contained in this Section 10 shall create any liability for damages, losses, claims, costs, injuries, expenses or other liabilities whatsoever on the part of either Party.
- 10.15 MPB will apply for all traffic bearing the 500, 900, toll free service access code (e.g. 800/888/877) (to the extent provided by an IXC) or any other non-geographic NPA which may be designated for such traffic in the future.
- 10.16 In the event Northstar determines to offer Telephone Exchange Services in a LATA in which Verizon operates an access Tandem Switch, Verizon shall permit and enable Northstar to subtend the Verizon access Tandem Switch(es) designated for the Verizon End Offices in the area where there are located Northstar Routing Point(s) associated with the NPA NXX(s) to/from which the Switched Exchange Access Services are homed.
- 10.17 Except as otherwise mutually agreed by the Parties, the MPB billing percentages for each Routing Point/Verizon Serving Wire Center combination shall be calculated according to the following formula, unless as mutually agreed to by the Parties:

$$a / (a + b) = \text{Northstar Billing Percentage}$$

and

$$b / (a + b) = \text{Verizon Billing Percentage}$$

where:



- a = the airline mileage between Northstar Routing Point and the actual point of interconnection for the MPB arrangement; and
- b = the airline mileage between the Verizon Serving Wire Center and the actual point of interconnection for the MPB arrangement.

10.18 Northstar shall inform Verizon of each LATA in which it intends to offer Telephone Exchange Services and its calculation of the billing percentages which should apply for such arrangement. Within ten (10) Business Days of Northstar's delivery of notice to Verizon, Verizon and Northstar shall confirm the Routing Point/Verizon Serving Wire Center combination and billing percentages.

## **11. Toll Free Service Access Code (e.g., 800/888/877) Traffic**

The following terms shall apply when either Party delivers toll free service access code (e.g., 800/877/888)("8YY") calls to the other Party. For the purposes of this Section 11, the terms "translated" and "untranslated" refers to those toll free service access code calls that have been queried ("translated") or have not been queried ("untranslated") to an 8YY database. Except as otherwise agreed to by the Parties, all Northstar originating "untranslated" 8YY traffic will be routed over a separate One-Way Miscellaneous Trunk group.

11.1 When Northstar delivers translated 8YY calls to Verizon to be completed by

11.1.1 an IXC:

11.1.1.1 Northstar will provide an appropriate EMI record to Verizon;

11.1.1.2 Northstar will bill the IXC the Northstar's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges and the Northstar's applicable Tariff query charges; and.

11.1.1.3 Verizon will bill the IXC Verizon's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges.

11.1.2 Verizon:

11.1.2.1 Northstar will provide an appropriate EMI record to Verizon; and

11.1.2.2 Northstar will bill Verizon the Northstar's Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges and the Northstar's applicable Tariff query charge.

11.1.3 a toll free service access code service provider in that LATA:

11.1.3.1 Northstar will provide an appropriate EMI record to Verizon and the toll free service access code service provider;

11.1.3.2 Northstar will bill the toll free service access code service provider the Northstar's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges and the Northstar's applicable Tariff query charges; and

11.1.3.3 Verizon will bill the toll free service access code service provider Verizon's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges.

- 11.2 When Verizon performs the query and delivers translated 8YY calls, originated by Verizon's Customer or another LEC's Customer to Northstar to be completed by
  - 11.2.1 Northstar:
    - 11.2.1.1 Verizon will provide an appropriate EMI record to Northstar; and
    - 11.2.1.2 Verizon will bill Northstar Verizon's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges and Verizon's applicable Tariff query charges.
  - 11.2.2 a toll free service access code service provider in that LATA:
    - 11.2.2.1 Verizon will provide an appropriate EMI record to Northstar and the toll free service access code service provider;
    - 11.2.2.2 Verizon will bill the toll free service access code service provider Verizon's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges and Verizon's applicable Tariff query charges; and
    - 11.2.2.3 Northstar will bill the toll free service access code service provider the Northstar's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges.
- 11.3 When Northstar: delivers untranslated 8YY calls to Verizon to be completed by
  - 11.3.1 an IXC:
    - 11.3.1.1 Verizon will query the call and route the call to the appropriate IXC;
    - 11.3.1.2 Verizon will provide an appropriate EMI record to Northstar;
    - 11.3.1.3 Verizon will bill the IXC Verizon's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges and Verizon's applicable Tariff query charges; and
    - 11.3.1.4 Northstar will bill the IXC Northstar's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges.
  - 11.3.2 Verizon:
    - 11.3.2.1 Verizon will query the call and complete the call;
    - 11.3.2.2 Verizon will provide an appropriate EMI record to Northstar;
    - 11.3.2.3 Northstar will bill Verizon the Northstar's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges.
  - 11.3.3 a toll free service access code service provider in that LATA:
    - 11.3.3.1 Verizon will query the call and route the call to the appropriate toll free service access code service provider;

- 11.3.3.2 Verizon will provide an appropriate EMI record to Northstar and the toll free service access code service provider;
- 11.3.3.3 Verizon will bill the toll free service access code service provider Verizon's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff and Verizon's applicable Tariff query charges; and
- 11.3.3.4 Northstar will bill the toll free service access code service provider the Northstar's applicable Switched Exchange Access Tariff charges.

11.4 Verizon will not direct untranslated toll free service access code call to Northstar.

## **12. Tandem Transit Traffic**

- 12.1 As used in this Section, Tandem Transit Traffic is Telephone Exchange Service traffic that originates on Northstar's network, and is transported through Verizon's Tandem to the subtending End Office or its equivalent of another carrier (CLEC, ILEC other than Verizon, Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) carrier, or other LEC ("Other Carrier"). Neither the originating nor terminating customer is a Customer of Verizon. Subtending End Offices shall be determined in accordance with and as identified in the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG). Switched Exchange Access Service traffic is not Tandem Transit Traffic.
- 12.2 Tandem Transit Traffic Service provides Northstar with the transport of Tandem Transit Traffic as provided below.
- 12.3 Tandem Transit Traffic may be routed over the Interconnection Trunks described in Sections 2 through 6 of this Attachment. Northstar shall deliver each Tandem Transit Traffic call to Verizon's Tandem with CCS and the appropriate Transactional Capabilities Application Part ("TCAP") message to facilitate full interoperability of CLASS Features and billing functions.
- 12.4 Northstar may use Tandem Transit Traffic Service only for traffic that originates on Northstar's network and only to send traffic to an Other Carrier with whom Northstar has a reciprocal traffic exchange arrangement (either via written agreement or mutual tariffs) that provides for the Other Carrier, to terminate or complete traffic originated by Northstar and to bill Northstar, and not to bill Verizon, for such traffic. Northstar agrees not to use Verizon's Tandem Transit Traffic Service to send traffic to an Other Carrier with whom Northstar does not have such a reciprocal traffic exchange arrangement or to send traffic that does not originate on Northstar's network.
- 12.5 Northstar shall pay Verizon for Tandem Transit Traffic Service at the rates specified in the Pricing Attachment. Verizon will not be liable for compensation to any Other Carrier for any traffic that is transported through Verizon's Tandem and Verizon reserves the right to assess to Northstar any additional charges or costs any Other Carrier imposes or levies on Verizon for the delivery or termination of such traffic, including any Switched Exchange Access Service charges. If Verizon is billed by any Other Carrier for any traffic originated by Northstar, Verizon may provide notice to Northstar of such billing. Upon receipt of such notice, Northstar shall immediately stop using Verizon's Tandem Transit Traffic Service to send any traffic to such Other Carrier until it has provided to Verizon certification that the Other Carrier has removed such billed charges from its bill to Verizon and that the Other Carrier will not bill Verizon for any traffic originated by Northstar. Such certification must be signed by an authorized officer or agent of the Other Carrier and must be in a form acceptable to Verizon.

- 12.6 If Northstar uses Tandem Transit Traffic Service for traffic volumes that exceed the CCS busy hour equivalent of 200,000 combined minutes of use per month (a DS1 equivalent) to the subtending End Office of a particular Other Carrier for any month (the "Threshold Level"), Northstar shall use good faith efforts to establish direct interconnection with such Other Carrier and reduce such traffic volumes below the Threshold Level. If Verizon believes that Northstar has not exercised good faith efforts promptly to obtain such direct interconnection, either Party may use the Dispute Resolution processes of this Agreement.
- 12.7 If Northstar fails to comply with Section 12 of this Attachment, such failure shall be a material breach of a material provision of this Agreement and Verizon may exercise any and all remedies under this Agreement and Applicable Law for such breach.
- 12.8 If or when a third party carrier plans to subtend a Northstar switch, then Northstar shall provide written notice to Verizon at least ninety (90) days before such subtending arrangement becomes effective so that Verizon may negotiate and establish direct interconnection with such third party carrier. Upon written request from Verizon, Northstar shall offer to Verizon a service arrangement equivalent to or the same as Tandem Transit Traffic Service provided by Verizon to Northstar as defined in this Section such that Verizon may terminate calls to a Central Office or its equivalent of a CLEC, ILEC other than Verizon, CMRS carrier, or other LEC, that subtends a Northstar Central Office or its equivalent ("Reciprocal Tandem Transit Service"). Northstar shall offer such Reciprocal Transit Service arrangements under terms and conditions of an amendment to this Agreement or a separate agreement no less favorable than those provided in this Section.
- 12.9 Neither Party shall take any actions to prevent the other Party from entering into a direct and reciprocal traffic exchange arrangement with any carrier to which it originates, or from which it terminates, traffic.

### **13. Number Resources, Rate Center Areas and Routing Points**

- 13.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or otherwise adversely affect in any manner either Party's right to employ or to request and be assigned any Central Office Codes ("NXX") pursuant to the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines and any relevant FCC or Commission orders, as may be amended from time to time, or to establish, by Tariff or otherwise, Rate Center Areas and Routing Points corresponding to such NXX codes.
- 13.2 It shall be the responsibility of each Party to program and update its own switches and network systems pursuant to information provided on ASRs as well as the LERG in order to recognize and route traffic to the other Party's assigned NXX codes. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, neither Party shall impose any fees or charges whatsoever on the other Party for such activities.
- 13.3 Unless otherwise required by Commission order, the Rate Center Areas will be the same for each Party. During the term of this Agreement, Northstar shall adopt the Rate Center Area and Rate Center Points that the Commission has approved for Verizon within the LATA and Tandem serving area. Northstar shall assign whole NPA-NXX codes to each Rate Center Area unless otherwise ordered by the FCC, the Commission or another governmental entity of appropriate jurisdiction, or the LEC industry adopts alternative methods of utilizing NXXs.

- 13.4 Northstar will also designate a Routing Point for each assigned NXX code. Northstar shall designate one location for each Rate Center Area in which the Northstar has established NXX code(s) as the Routing Point for the NPA-NXXs associated with that Rate Center Area, and such Routing Point shall be within the same LATA as the Rate Center Area but not necessarily within the Rate Center Area itself. Unless specified otherwise, calls to subsequent NXXs of Northstar will be routed in the same manner as calls to Northstar's initial NXXs.
- 13.5 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, nothing in this Agreement is intended, and nothing in this Agreement shall be construed, to in any way constrain Northstar's choices regarding the size of the local calling area(s) that Northstar may establish for its Customers, which local calling areas may be larger than, smaller than, or identical to Verizon's local calling areas.

#### **14. Joint Network Implementation and Grooming Process; Forecasting**

##### 14.1 Joint Network Implementation and Grooming Process.

Upon request of either Party, the Parties shall jointly develop an implementation and grooming process (the "Joint Grooming Process" or "Joint Process") which may define and detail, inter alia:

- 14.1.1 standards to ensure that Interconnection Trunks experience a grade of service, availability and quality which is comparable to that achieved on interoffice trunks within Verizon's network and in accord with all appropriate relevant industry-accepted quality, reliability and availability standards. Except as otherwise stated in this Agreement, trunks provided by either Party for Interconnection services will be engineered using a design-blocking objective of B.01.
- 14.1.2 the respective duties and responsibilities of the Parties with respect to the administration and maintenance of the trunk groups, including, but not limited to, standards and procedures for notification and discoveries of trunk disconnects;
- 14.1.3 disaster recovery provision escalations;
- 14.1.4 additional technically feasible Point(s) of Interconnection on Verizon's network in a LATA as provided in Section 2 of this Attachment; and
- 14.1.5 such other matters as the Parties may agree, including, e.g., End Office to End Office high usage trunks as good engineering practices may dictate.

##### 14.2 Trunk Forecasting Requirements.

- 14.2.1 Initial Trunk Forecast Requirements. At least ninety (90) days before initiating interconnection in a LATA, Northstar shall provide Verizon a two (2)-year traffic forecast that complies with the Verizon Interconnection Trunking Forecast Guide, as revised from time to time. This initial traffic forecast will provide the amount of traffic to be delivered to and from Verizon over each of the Interconnection Trunk groups in the LATA over the next eight (8) quarters.
- 14.2.2 Ongoing Trunk Forecast Requirements. Where the Parties have already established interconnection in a LATA, Northstar shall provide a new or revised traffic forecast that complies with the Verizon

Interconnection Trunking Forecast Guide when Northstar develops plans or becomes aware of information that will materially affect the Parties' interconnection in that LATA. Instances that require a new or revised forecast include, but are not limited to: (a) Northstar plans to deploy a new switch; (b) Northstar plans to implement a new POI or network architecture; (c) Northstar plans to rearrange its network; (d) Northstar plans to convert a One-Way Interconnection Trunk group to a Two-Way Interconnection Trunk group; (e) Northstar plans to convert a Two-Way Interconnection Trunk group to a One-Way Interconnection Trunk group; or (f) Northstar expects a significant change in interconnection traffic volume. In addition, upon request by either Party, the Parties shall meet to: (i) review traffic and usage data on End Office and Tandem Interconnection Trunk groups and (ii) determine whether the Parties should establish new Interconnection Trunk groups, augment existing Interconnection Trunk groups, or disconnect existing Interconnection Trunks.

14.2.3 Use of Trunk Forecasts. Trunk forecasts provided pursuant to this Agreement must be prepared in good faith but are not otherwise binding on Northstar or Verizon.

## **15. Number Portability - Section 251(B)(2)**

### 15.1 Scope.

The Parties shall provide Number Portability (NP) in accordance with rules and regulations as from time to time prescribed by the FCC.

### 15.2 Procedures for Providing LNP ("Local Number Portability").

The Parties will follow the LNP provisioning process recommended by the North American Numbering Council (NANC) and the Industry Numbering Council (INC), and adopted by the FCC. In addition, the Parties agree to follow the LNP ordering procedures established at the OBF. The Parties shall provide LNP on a reciprocal basis.

15.2.1 A Customer of one Party ("Party A") elects to become a Customer of the other Party ("Party B"). The Customer elects to utilize the original telephone number(s) corresponding to the Telephone Exchange Service(s) it previously received from Party A, in conjunction with the Telephone Exchange Service(s) it will now receive from Party B. After Party B has received authorization from the Customer in accordance with Applicable Law and sends an LSR to Party A, Parties A and B will work together to port the Customer's telephone number(s) from Party A's network to Party B's network.

15.2.2 When a telephone number is ported out of Party A's network, Party A will remove any non-proprietary line based calling card(s) associated with the ported number(s) from its Line Information Database (LIDB). Reactivation of the line-based calling card in another LIDB, if desired, is the responsibility of Party B or Party B's Customer.

15.2.3 When a Customer of Party A ports their telephone numbers to Party B and the Customer has previously secured a reservation of line numbers from Party A for possible activation at a future point, these reserved but inactive numbers may be ported along with the active numbers to be ported provided the numbers have been reserved for

the Customer. Party B may request that Party A port all reserved numbers assigned to the Customer or that Party A port only those numbers listed by Party B. As long as Party B maintains reserved but inactive numbers ported for the Customer, Party A shall not reassign those numbers. Party B shall not reassign the reserved numbers to another Customer.

- 15.2.4 When a Customer of Party A ports their telephone numbers to Party B, in the process of porting the Customer's telephone numbers, Party A shall implement the ten-digit trigger feature where it is available. When Party A receives the porting request, the unconditional trigger shall be applied to the Customer's line before the due date of the porting activity. When the ten-digit unconditional trigger is not available, Party A and Party B must coordinate the disconnect activity.
- 15.2.5 The Parties shall furnish each other with the Jurisdiction Information Parameter (JIP) in the Initial Address Message (IAM), according to industry standards.
- 15.2.6 Where LNP is commercially available, the NXXs in the office shall be defined as portable, except as noted in 15.2.7, and translations will be changed in the Parties' switches to open those NXXs for database queries in all applicable LNP capable offices within the LATA of the given switch(es). On a prospective basis, all newly deployed switches will be equipped with LNP capability and so noted in the LERG.
- 15.2.7 All NXXs assigned to LNP capable switches are to be designated as portable unless a NXX(s) has otherwise been designated as non-portable. Non-portable NXXs include NXX codes assigned to paging services; NXX codes assigned for internal testing and official use, and any other NXX codes required to be designated as non-portable by the rules and regulations of the FCC. NXX codes assigned to mass calling on a choked network may not be ported using LNP technology but are portable using methods established by the NANC and adopted by the FCC. On a prospective basis, newly assigned codes in switches capable of porting shall become commercially available for porting with the effective date in the network.
- 15.2.8 Both Parties' use of LNP shall meet the performance criteria specified by the FCC. Both Parties will act as the default carrier for the other Party in the event that either Party is unable to perform the routing necessary for LNP.

### 15.3 Procedures for Providing NP Through Full NXX Code Migration.

Where a Party has activated an entire NXX for a single Customer, or activated at least eighty percent (80%) of an NXX for a single Customer, with the remaining numbers in that NXX either reserved for future use by that Customer or otherwise unused, if such Customer chooses to receive Telephone Exchange Service from the other 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 be accomplished with appropriate coordination between the Parties and subject to appropriate industry lead times for movements of NXXs from one switch to another. Neither Party shall charge the other in connection with this coordinated transfer.

15.4 Procedures for LNP Request.

The Parties shall provide for the requesting of End Office LNP capability on a reciprocal basis through a written request. The Parties acknowledge that Verizon has deployed LNP throughout its network in compliance with FCC 96-286 and other applicable FCC Regulations.

15.4.1 If Party B desires to have LNP capability deployed in an End Office of Party A, which is not currently capable, Party B shall issue a LNP request to Party A. Party A will respond to the Party B, within ten (10) days of receipt of the request, with a date for which LNP will be available in the requested End Office. Party A shall proceed to provide for LNP in compliance with the procedures and timelines set forth in FCC 96-286, Paragraph 80, and FCC 97-74, Paragraphs 65 through 67.

15.4.2 The Parties acknowledge that each can determine the LNP-capable End Offices of the other through the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG). In addition, the Parties shall make information available upon request showing their respective LNP-capable End Offices, as set forth in this Section 15.4.

15.5 Northstar shall submit orders to port numbers electronically using an LSR via the Verizon web Graphical User Interface ("GUI") or Electronic Data Interface ("EDI") pursuant to the instructions, business rules and guidelines set forth on the Verizon wholesale website.

**16. Good Faith Performance**

If and, to the extent that, Verizon, prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement, has not provided in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a Service offered under this Attachment, Verizon reserves the right to negotiate in good faith with Northstar reasonable terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes) for such Service; and, if the Parties cannot agree to such terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes), either Party may utilize the Agreement's dispute resolution procedures.



## RESALE ATTACHMENT

### 1. General

Verizon shall provide to Northstar, in accordance with this Agreement (including, but not limited to, Verizon's applicable Tariffs) and the requirements of Applicable Law, Verizon's Telecommunications Services for resale by Northstar; provided, that notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, Verizon shall be obligated to provide Telecommunications Services to Northstar only to the extent required by Applicable Law and may decline to provide a Telecommunications Service to Northstar to the extent that provision of such Telecommunications Service is not required by Applicable Law.

### 2. Use of Verizon Telecommunications Services

2.1 Verizon Telecommunications Services may be purchased by Northstar under this Resale Attachment only for the purpose of resale by Northstar as a Telecommunications Carrier. Verizon Telecommunications Services to be purchased by Northstar for other purposes (including, but not limited to, Northstar's own use) must be purchased by Northstar pursuant to other applicable Attachments to this Agreement (if any), or separate written agreements, including, but not limited to, applicable Verizon Tariffs.

2.2 Northstar shall not resell:

2.2.1 Residential service to persons not eligible to subscribe to such service from Verizon (including, but not limited to, business or other nonresidential Customers);

2.2.2 Lifeline, Link Up America, or other means-tested service offerings, to persons not eligible to subscribe to such service offerings from Verizon;

2.2.3 Grandfathered or discontinued service offerings to persons not eligible to subscribe to such service offerings from Verizon; or

2.2.4 Any other Verizon service in violation of a restriction stated in this Agreement (including, but not limited to, a Verizon Tariff) that is not prohibited by Applicable Law.

2.2.5 In addition to any other actions taken by Northstar to comply with this Section 2.2, Northstar shall take those actions required by Applicable Law to determine the eligibility of Northstar Customers to purchase a service, including, but not limited to, obtaining any proof or certification of eligibility to purchase Lifeline, Link Up America, or other means-tested services, required by Applicable Law. Northstar shall indemnify Verizon from any Claims resulting from Northstar's failure to take such actions required by Applicable Law.

2.2.6 Verizon may perform audits to confirm Northstar's conformity to the provisions of this Section 2.2. Such audits may be performed twice per calendar year and shall be performed in accordance with Section 7 of the General Terms and Conditions.

- 2.3 Northstar shall be subject to the same limitations that Verizon's Customers are subject to with respect to any Telecommunications Service that Verizon grandfathered or discontinues offering. Without limiting the foregoing, except to the extent that Verizon follows a different practice for Verizon Customers in regard to a grandfathered Telecommunications Service, such grandfathered Telecommunications Service: (a) shall be available only to a Customer that already has such Telecommunications Service; (b) may not be moved to a new service location; and (c) will be furnished only to the extent that facilities continue to be available to provide such Telecommunications Service.
- 2.4 Northstar shall not be eligible to participate in any Verizon plan or program under which Verizon Customers may obtain products or services, which are not Verizon Telecommunications Services, in return for trying, agreeing to purchase, purchasing, or using Verizon Telecommunications Services.
- 2.5 In accordance with 47 CFR § 51.617(b), Verizon shall be entitled to all charges for Verizon Exchange Access services used by interexchange carriers to provide service to Northstar Customers.

### **3. Availability of Verizon Telecommunications Services**

- 3.1 Verizon will provide a Verizon Telecommunications Service to Northstar for resale pursuant to this Attachment where and to the same extent, but only where and to the same extent that such Verizon Telecommunications Service is provided to Verizon's Customers.
- 3.2 Except as otherwise required by Applicable Law, subject to Section 3.1 of this Attachment, Verizon shall have the right to add, modify, grandfather, discontinue or withdraw Verizon Telecommunications Services at any time, without the consent of Northstar.
- 3.3 To the extent required by Applicable Law, the Verizon Telecommunications Services to be provided to Northstar for resale pursuant to this Attachment will include a Verizon Telecommunications Service customer-specific contract service arrangement ("CSA") (such as a customer specific pricing arrangement or individual case based pricing arrangement) that Verizon is providing to a Verizon Customer at the time the CSA is requested by Northstar.

### **4. Responsibility for Charges**

- 4.1 Northstar shall be responsible for and pay to Verizon all charges for any Telecommunications Services provided by Verizon or provided by persons other than Verizon and billed for by Verizon, that are ordered, activated or used by Northstar, Northstar Customers or any other persons, through, by means of, or in association with, Telecommunications Services provided by Verizon to Northstar pursuant to this Resale Attachment.
- 4.2 Upon request by Northstar, Verizon will provide for use on resold Verizon retail Telecommunications Service dial tone lines purchased by Northstar such Verizon retail Telecommunications Service call blocking and call screening services as Verizon provides to its own end user retail Customers, where and to the extent Verizon provides such Verizon retail Telecommunications Service call blocking services to Verizon's own end user retail Customers. Northstar understands and agrees that certain of Verizon's call blocking and call screening services are not guaranteed to block or screen all calls and that notwithstanding Northstar's purchase of such blocking or screening services, Northstar's end user Customers or other persons ordering, activating or using Telecommunications Services on

the resold dial tone lines may complete or accept calls which Northstar intended to block. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Northstar shall be responsible for and shall pay Verizon all charges for Telecommunications Services provided by Verizon or provided by persons other than Verizon and billed for by Verizon in accordance with the terms of Section 4.1 above.

## **5. Operations Matters**

### **5.1 Facilities.**

- 5.1.1 Verizon and its suppliers shall retain all of their right, title and interest in all facilities, equipment, software, information, and wiring used to provide Verizon Telecommunications Services.
- 5.1.2 Verizon shall have access at all reasonable times to Northstar Customer locations for the purpose of installing, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, and removing, facilities, equipment, software, and wiring used to provide the Verizon Telecommunications Services. Northstar shall, at Northstar's expense, obtain any rights and authorizations necessary for such access.
- 5.1.3 Except as otherwise agreed to in writing by Verizon, Verizon shall not be responsible for the installation, inspection, repair, maintenance, or removal of facilities, equipment, software, or wiring provided by Northstar or Northstar Customers for use with Verizon Telecommunications Services.

### **5.2 Branding.**

- 5.2.1 Except as stated in Section 5.2.2 of this Attachment, in providing Verizon Telecommunications Services to Northstar, Verizon shall have the right (but not the obligation) to identify the Verizon Telecommunications Services with Verizon's trade names, trademarks and service marks ("Verizon Marks"), to the same extent that these Services are identified with Verizon's Marks when they are provided to Verizon's Customers. Any such identification of Verizon's Telecommunications Services shall not constitute the grant of a license or other right to Northstar to use Verizon's Marks.
- 5.2.2 To the extent required by Applicable Law, upon request by Northstar and at prices, terms and conditions to be negotiated by Northstar and Verizon, Verizon shall provide Verizon Telecommunications Services for resale that are identified by Northstar's trade name, or that are not identified by trade name, trademark or service mark.
- 5.2.3 If Verizon uses a third-party contractor to provide Verizon operator services or Verizon directory assistance, Northstar will be responsible for entering into a direct contractual arrangement with the third-party contractor at Northstar's expense (a) to obtain identification of Verizon operator services or Verizon directory assistance purchased by Northstar for resale with Northstar's trade name, or (b) to obtain removal of Verizon Marks from Verizon operator services or Verizon directory assistance purchased by Northstar for resale.

## **6. Rates and Charges**

The rates and charges for Verizon Telecommunication Services purchased by Northstar

for resale pursuant to this Attachment shall be as provided in this Attachment and the Pricing Attachment.

**7. Good Faith Performance**

If and, to the extent that, Verizon, prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement, has not provided in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a Service offered under this Attachment, Verizon reserves the right to negotiate in good faith with Northstar reasonable terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes) for such Service; and, if the Parties cannot agree to such terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes), either Party may utilize the Agreement's dispute resolution procedures.

## NETWORK ELEMENTS ATTACHMENT

### 1. General

- 1.1 Verizon shall provide to Northstar, in accordance with this Agreement (including, but not limited to, Verizon's applicable Tariffs) and the requirements of Applicable Law, access to Verizon's Network Elements on an unbundled basis and in combinations (Combinations); provided, however, that notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, Verizon shall be obligated to provide unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) and Combinations to Northstar only to the extent required by Applicable Law and may decline to provide UNEs or Combinations to Northstar to the extent that provision of such UNEs or Combinations is not required by Applicable Law.
- 1.2 Verizon shall be obligated to combine UNEs that are not already combined in Verizon's network only to the extent required by Applicable Law. Except as otherwise required by Applicable Law: (a) Verizon shall be obligated to provide a UNE or Combination pursuant to this Agreement only to the extent such UNE or Combination, and the equipment and facilities necessary to provide such UNE or Combination, are available in Verizon's network; and (b) Verizon shall have no obligation to construct or deploy new facilities or equipment to offer any UNE or Combination.
- 1.3 Northstar may use a UNE or Combination only for those purposes for which Verizon is required by Applicable Law to provide such UNE or Combination to Northstar. Without limiting the foregoing, Northstar may use a UNE or Combination (a) only to provide a Telecommunications Service and (b) to provide Exchange Access services only to the extent that Verizon is required by Applicable Law to provide such UNE or Combination to Northstar in order to allow Northstar to provide such Exchange Access services.
- 1.4 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement:
  - 1.4.1 To the extent Verizon is required by a change in Applicable Law to provide to Northstar a UNE or Combination that is not offered under this Agreement to Northstar as of the Effective Date, the terms, conditions and prices for such UNE or Combination (including, but not limited to, the terms and conditions defining the UNE or Combination and stating when and where the UNE or Combination will be available and how it will be used, and terms, conditions and prices for pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, repair, maintenance and billing) shall be as provided in an applicable Verizon Tariff, or, in the absence of an applicable Verizon Tariff, as mutually agreed in writing by the Parties.
  - 1.4.2 Verizon shall not be obligated to provide to Northstar, and Northstar shall not request from Verizon, access to a proprietary advanced intelligent network service.
- 1.5 Without limiting Verizon's rights pursuant to Applicable Law or any other section of this Agreement to terminate its provision of a UNE or a Combination, if Verizon provides a UNE or Combination to Northstar, and the Commission, the FCC, a court or other governmental body of appropriate jurisdiction determines or has

determined that Verizon is not required by Applicable Law to provide such UNE or Combination, Verizon may terminate its provision of such UNE or Combination to Northstar. If Verizon terminates its provision of a UNE or a Combination to Northstar pursuant to this Section 1.5 and Northstar elects to purchase other services offered by Verizon in place of such UNE or Combination, then: (a) Verizon shall reasonably cooperate with Northstar to coordinate the termination of such UNE or Combination and the installation of such services to minimize the interruption of service to Customers of Northstar; and, (b) Northstar shall pay all applicable charges for such services, including, but not limited to, all applicable installation charges.

- 1.6 Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute an agreement by Verizon that any item identified in this Agreement as a Network Element is (i) a Network Element under Applicable Law, or (ii) a Network Element Verizon is required by Applicable Law to provide to Northstar on an unbundled basis or in combination with other Network Elements.
- 1.7 If as the result of Northstar Customer actions (i.e., Customer Not Ready ("CNR")), Verizon cannot complete requested work activity when a technician has been dispatched to the Northstar Customer premises, Northstar will be assessed a non-recurring charge associated with this visit. This charge will be the sum of the applicable Service Order charge as provided in the Pricing Attachment and the Premises Visit Charge as provided in Verizon's applicable retail or wholesale Tariff.

## **2. Verizon's Provision of Network Elements**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment, in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law, Verizon shall provide Northstar access to the following:

- 2.1 Loops, as set forth in Section 3 of this Attachment;
- 2.2 Line Sharing, as set forth in Section 4 of this Attachment;
- 2.3 Line Splitting, as set forth in Section 5 of this Attachment;
- 2.4 Sub-Loops, as set forth in Section 6 of this Attachment;
- 2.5 Inside Wire, as set forth in Section 7 of this Attachment;
- 2.6 Dark Fiber, as set forth in Section 8 of this Attachment;
- 2.7 Network Interface Device, as set forth in Section 9 of this Attachment;
- 2.8 Circuit Switching Elements, as set forth in Section 10 of this Attachment;
- 2.9 Interoffice Transmission Facilities (IOF), as set forth in Section 11 of this Attachment;
- 2.10 Signaling Networks and Call-Related Databases, as set forth in Section 12 of this Attachment;
- 2.11 Operations Support Systems, as set forth in Section 13 of this Attachment; and
- 2.12 Other UNEs in accordance with Section 14 of this Attachment.

## **3. Loop Transmission Types**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment, Verizon shall allow Northstar to access Loops unbundled from local switching and local transport, at the rates, terms and conditions set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, that relate to or concern Loops, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective. Verizon shall allow Northstar access to Loops in accordance with, but only to extent required by, Applicable Law.

#### **4. Line Sharing**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment and upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall provide Northstar line sharing in accordance with, and subject to, the rates, terms and conditions set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, that relate to or concern line sharing, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective ("Line Sharing"). Verizon shall provide Northstar with access to Line Sharing in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.

#### **5. Line Splitting**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment, Verizon shall provide Northstar with access to line splitting in accordance with, and subject to, the rates, terms and conditions set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No.17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, that relate to or concern line splitting, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective ("Line Splitting"). Verizon shall provide Northstar with access to Line Splitting in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.

#### **6. Sub-Loop**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment and upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall allow Northstar to access Sub-Loops unbundled from local switching and transport, in accordance with the terms of Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, that relate to or concern Sub-Loops, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective. Verizon shall allow Northstar access to Sub-Loops in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.

##### **6.1 Collocation in Remote Terminals.**

To the extent required by Applicable Law, Verizon shall allow Northstar to collocate equipment in a Verizon remote terminal equipment enclosure in accordance with, and subject to, the rates, terms and conditions set forth in the Collocation Attachment and the Pricing Attachment.

#### **7. Inside Wire**

##### **7.1 House and Riser.**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment and upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall provide Northstar with access to a House and Riser Cable in accordance with, and subject to, the rates, terms and conditions set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, that relate to or concern House and Riser Cable, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective. Verizon shall provide Northstar with access to House and Riser Cable in accordance with, but

only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.

**8. Dark Fiber**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment and upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall provide Northstar with access to dark fiber in accordance with, and subject to, the rates, terms and conditions set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, that relate to or concern dark fiber, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective. Verizon will provide Northstar access to dark fiber in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.

**9. Network Interface Device**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment and upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall permit Northstar to connect a carrier's Loop to the Inside Wiring of a Customer's premises through Verizon's NID at the rates, terms and conditions set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, that relate to or concern NIDs, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective. Verizon shall provide Northstar with access to NIDs in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.

**10. Unbundled Circuit Switching Elements**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment and upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall make available to Northstar the local switching element and Tandem switching element unbundled from shared interoffice transport and local Loop transmission, or other services, in accordance with Applicable Law, at the rates, terms and conditions set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, that relate to or concern the local switching element and the Tandem switching element, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective. Verizon shall provide Northstar with access to the local switching element and the Tandem switching element in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.

**11. Unbundled Interoffice Facilities**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment, and upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall make available to Northstar where facilities are available, interoffice facilities (IOF) unbundled from other Network Elements at the rates, terms and conditions set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, that relate to or concern IOF unbundled from other Network Elements, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective. Verizon shall provide Northstar with access to the unbundled IOF in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.

**12. Signaling Networks and Call-Related Databases**

12.1 Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment and upon request by Northstar, Verizon shall provide Northstar with access to databases and associated signaling necessary for call routing and completion by providing SS7 Common Channel Signaling ("CCS") Interconnection, and Interconnection and access to toll free service access code (e.g., 800/888/877) databases, LIDB, and any other necessary databases, in accordance with this Section 12 and the rates and charges provided in the Pricing Attachment. Such access shall be



provided by Verizon in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law.

- 12.2 Northstar shall provide Verizon with CCS Interconnection required for call routing and completion, and the billing of calls which involve Northstar's Customers, at non-discriminatory rates (subject to the provisions of the Pricing Attachment), terms and conditions, provided further that if the Northstar information Verizon requires to provide such call-related functionality is resident in a database, Northstar will provide Verizon with the access and authorization to query Northstar's information in the databases within which it is stored.
- 12.3 Alternatively, either Party ("Purchasing Party") may secure CCS Interconnection from a commercial SS7 hub provider (third party signaling provider) to transport signaling messages to and from the Verizon CCS network, and in that case the other Party will permit the Purchasing Party to access the same databases as would have been accessible if the Purchasing Party had connected directly to the other Party's CCS network. If a third party signaling provider is selected by Northstar to transport signaling messages, that third party provider must present a letter of agency to Verizon, prior to the testing of the interconnection, authorizing the third party to act on behalf of Northstar.
- 12.4 Regardless of the manner in which Northstar obtains CCS Interconnection, Northstar shall comply with Verizon's SS7 certification process prior to establishing CCS Interconnection with Verizon.
- 12.5 The Parties will provide CCS Signaling to each other, where and as available, in conjunction with all Reciprocal Compensation Traffic, Toll Traffic, Meet Point Billing Traffic, and Transit Traffic. The Parties will cooperate on the exchange of 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 Customers. All CCS Signaling parameters will be provided upon request (where available), including called party number, Calling Party Number, originating line information, calling party category, and charge number. All privacy indicators will be honored as required under applicable law.
- 12.6 The Parties will follow all OBF-adopted standards pertaining to CIC/OZZ codes.
- 12.7 Where CCS Signaling is not available, in-band multi-frequency ("MF") wink start signaling will be provided. Any such MF arrangement will require a separate local trunk circuit between the Parties' respective switches in those instances where the Parties have established End Office to End Office high usage trunk groups. In such an arrangement, each Party will out pulse the full ten-digit telephone number of the called Party to the other Party.
- 12.8 The Parties acknowledge that there is a network security risk associated with interconnection with the public Internet Protocol network, including, but not limited to, the risk that interconnection of Northstar signaling systems to the public Internet Protocol network may expose Northstar and Verizon signaling systems and information to interference by third parties. Northstar shall notify Verizon in writing sixty (60) days in advance of installation of any network arrangement that may expose signaling systems or information to access through the public Internet Protocol network. Northstar shall take commercially reasonable efforts to protect its signaling systems and Verizon's signaling systems from interference by unauthorized persons.

- 12.9 Each Party shall provide trunk groups, where available and upon reasonable request, that are configured utilizing the B8ZS ESF protocol for 64 kbps clear channel transmission to allow for ISDN interoperability between the Parties' respective networks.
- 12.10 The following publications describe the practices, procedures and specifications generally utilized by Verizon for signaling purposes and are listed herein to assist the Parties in meeting their respective Interconnection responsibilities related to Signaling:
- 12.10.1 Telcordia Generic Requirements, GR-905-CORE, Issue 1, March, 1995, and subsequent issues and amendments; and
- 12.10.2 Where applicable, Verizon Supplement Common Channel Signaling Network Interface Specification (Verizon-905).
- 12.11 Each Party shall charge the other Party mutual and reciprocal rates for any usage-based charges for CCS Signaling, toll free service access code (e.g., 800/888/877) database access, LIDB access, and access to other necessary databases, as follows: Verizon shall charge Northstar in accordance with the Pricing Attachment and the terms and conditions in applicable Tariffs. Northstar shall charge Verizon rates equal to the rates Verizon charges Northstar, unless Northstar's Tariffs for CCS signaling provide for lower generally available rates, in which case Northstar shall charge Verizon such lower rates. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent a Party uses a third party vendor for the provision of CCS Signaling, such charges shall apply only to the third party vendor.

### **13. Operations Support Systems**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment and in Section 8 of the Additional Services Attachment, Verizon shall provide Northstar with access via electronic interfaces to databases required for pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair, and billing. Verizon shall provide Northstar with such access in accordance with, but only to the extent required by, Applicable Law. All such transactions shall be submitted by Northstar through such electronic interfaces.

### **14. Availability of Other Network Elements on an Unbundled Basis**

- 14.1 Any request by Northstar for access to a Verizon Network Element that is not already available and that Verizon is required by Applicable Law to provide on an unbundled basis shall be treated as a Network Element Bona Fide Request pursuant to Section 14.3, of this Attachment. Northstar shall provide Verizon access to its Network Elements as mutually agreed by the Parties or as required by Applicable Law.
- 14.2 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 14, a Party shall not be required to provide a proprietary Network Element to the other Party under this Section 14 except as required by Applicable Law.
- 14.3 Network Element Bona Fide Request (BFR).
- 14.3.1 Each Party shall promptly consider and analyze access to a new unbundled Network Element in response to the submission of a Network Element Bona Fide Request by the other Party hereunder. The Network Element Bona Fide Request process set forth herein does not apply to those services requested pursuant to Report & Order

and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 91-141 (rel. Oct. 19, 1992) ¶ 259 and n.603 or subsequent orders.

- 14.3.2 A Network Element Bona Fide Request shall be submitted in writing and shall include a technical description of each requested Network Element.
- 14.3.3 The requesting Party may cancel a Network Element Bona Fide Request at any time, but shall pay the other Party's reasonable and demonstrable costs of processing and/or implementing the Network Element Bona Fide Request up to the date of cancellation.
- 14.3.4 Within ten (10) Business Days of its receipt, the receiving Party shall acknowledge receipt of the Network Element Bona Fide Request.
- 14.3.5 Except under extraordinary circumstances, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of a Network Element Bona Fide Request, the receiving Party shall provide to the requesting Party a preliminary analysis of such Network Element Bona Fide Request. The preliminary analysis shall confirm that the receiving Party will offer access to the Network Element or will provide a detailed explanation that access to the Network Element is not technically feasible and/or that the request does not qualify as a Network Element that is required to be provided by Applicable Law.
- 14.3.6 If the receiving Party determines that the Network Element Bona Fide Request is technically feasible and access to the Network Element is required to be provided by Applicable Law, it shall promptly proceed with developing the Network Element Bona Fide Request upon receipt of written authorization from the requesting Party. When it receives such authorization, the receiving Party shall promptly develop the requested services, determine their availability, calculate the applicable prices and establish installation intervals. Unless the Parties otherwise agree, the Network Element requested must be priced in accordance with Section 252(d)(1) of the Act.
- 14.3.7 As soon as feasible, but not more than ninety (90) days after its receipt of authorization to proceed with developing the Network Element Bona Fide Request, the receiving Party shall provide to the requesting Party a Network Element Bona Fide Request quote which will include, at a minimum, a description of each Network Element, the availability, the applicable rates, and the installation intervals.
- 14.3.8 Within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the Network Element Bona Fide Request quote, the requesting Party must either confirm its order for the Network Element Bona Fide Request pursuant to the Network Element Bona Fide Request quote or seek arbitration by the Commission pursuant to Section 252 of the Act.
- 14.3.9 If a Party to a Network Element Bona Fide Request believes that the other Party is not requesting, negotiating or processing the Network Element Bona Fide Request in good faith, or disputes a determination, or price or cost quote, or is failing to act in accordance with Section 251 of the Act, such Party may seek mediation or arbitration by the Commission pursuant to Section 252 of the Act.

## **15. Maintenance of Network Elements**

If (a) Northstar reports to Verizon a Customer trouble, (b) Northstar requests a dispatch, (c) Verizon dispatches a technician, and (d) such trouble was not caused by Verizon's facilities or equipment in whole or in part, then Northstar shall pay Verizon a charge set forth in the Pricing Attachment for time associated with said dispatch. In addition, this charge also applies when the Customer contact as designated by Northstar is not available at the appointed time. Northstar accepts responsibility for initial trouble isolation and providing Verizon with appropriate dispatch information based on its test results. If, as the result of Northstar instructions, Verizon is erroneously requested to dispatch to a site on Verizon company premises ("dispatch in"), a charge set forth in the Pricing Attachment will be assessed per occurrence to Northstar by Verizon. If as the result of Northstar instructions, Verizon is erroneously requested to dispatch to a site outside of Verizon company premises ("dispatch out"), a charge set forth in the Pricing Attachment will be assessed per occurrence to Northstar by Verizon. Verizon agrees to respond to Northstar trouble reports on a non-discriminatory basis consistent with the manner in which it provides service to its own retail Customers or to any other similarly situated Telecommunications Carrier.

**16. Combinations**

Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 of this Attachment, Verizon shall be obligated to provide a Combination only to the extent provision of such Combination is required by Applicable Law. To the extent Verizon is required by Applicable Law to provide a Combination to Northstar, Verizon shall provide such Combination in accordance with the terms, conditions and prices for such Combination as provided in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, that relate to or concern Combinations, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective.

**17. Rates and Charges**

The rates and charges for UNEs, Combinations and other services, facilities and arrangements, offered under this Attachment shall be as provided in this Attachment and the Pricing Attachment.

**18. Good Faith Performance**

If and, to the extent that, Verizon, prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement, has not provided in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a Service offered under this Attachment, Verizon reserves the right to negotiate in good faith with Northstar reasonable terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes) for such Service; and, if the Parties cannot agree to such terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes), either Party may utilize the Agreement's dispute resolution procedures.

## COLLOCATION ATTACHMENT

### 1. Verizon's Provision of Collocation

Verizon shall provide to Northstar, in accordance with this Agreement (including, but not limited to, Verizon's applicable Tariffs) and the requirements of Applicable Law, Collocation for the purpose of facilitating Northstar's interconnection with facilities or services of Verizon or access to Unbundled Network Elements of Verizon; provided, that notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, Verizon shall be obligated to provide Collocation to Northstar only to the extent required by Applicable Law and may decline to provide Collocation to Northstar to the extent that provision of Collocation is not required by Applicable Law. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Collocation Attachment, nothing in this Collocation Attachment shall be deemed to require Verizon to provide (and, for the avoidance of any doubt, Verizon may decline to provide and/or cease providing) Collocation that, if provided by Verizon, would be used by Northstar to obtain unbundled access to any network element: (a) that Verizon is not required to unbundle under 47 U.S.C. § 251(c)(3) or (b) that Verizon is not required to unbundle under 47 C.F.R. Part 51. Subject to the foregoing, Verizon shall provide Collocation to Northstar in accordance with the rates, terms and conditions set forth in Verizon's Collocation Tariff, and Verizon shall do so regardless of whether or not such rates, terms and conditions are effective.

## 911 ATTACHMENT

### 1. 911/E-911 Arrangements

- 1.1 Northstar may, at its option, interconnect to the Verizon 911/E-911 Selective Router or 911 Tandem Offices, as appropriate, that serve the areas in which Northstar provides Telephone Exchange Services, for the provision of 911/E-911 services and for access to all subtending Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). In such situations, Verizon will provide Northstar with the appropriate CLLI codes and specifications of the Tandem Office serving area. In areas where E-911 is not available, Northstar and Verizon will negotiate arrangements to connect Northstar to the 911 service in accordance with applicable state law.
- 1.2 Path and route diverse Interconnections for 911/E-911 shall be made at the technically feasible Point of Interconnection on Verizon's network at which the Parties interconnect, or other points as necessary and mutually agreed, and as required by law or regulation.
- 1.3 Within thirty (30) days of its receipt of a complete and accurate request from Northstar, to include all required information and applicable forms, and to the extent authorized by the relevant federal, state, and local authorities, Verizon will provide Northstar, where Verizon offers 911 service, with the following at a reasonable fee, if applicable:
  - 1.3.1 a file via electronic medium containing the Master Street Address Guide ("MSAG") for each county within the LATA(s) where Northstar is providing, or represents to Verizon that it intends to provide within sixty (60) days of Northstar's request, local exchange service, which MSAG shall be updated as the need arises and a complete copy of which shall be made available on an annual basis;
  - 1.3.2 a list of the address and CLLI code of each 911/E-911 selective router or 911 Tandem office(s) in the area in which Northstar plans to offer Telephone Exchange Service;
  - 1.3.3 a list of geographical areas, e.g., LATAs, counties or municipalities, with the associated 911 tandems, as applicable.
  - 1.3.4 a list of Verizon personnel who currently have responsibility for 911/E-911 requirements, including a list of escalation contacts should the primary contacts be unavailable.
  - 1.3.5 any special 911 trunking requirements for each 911/E-911 selective router or 911 Tandem Office, where available, and;
  - 1.3.6 prompt return of any Northstar 911/E-911 data entry files containing errors, so that Northstar may ensure the accuracy of the Customer records.

### 2. Electronic Interface

Northstar shall use, where available, the appropriate Verizon electronic interface, through which Northstar shall input and provide a daily update of 911/E-911 database information related to appropriate Northstar Customers. In those areas where an electronic interface is not available, Northstar shall provide Verizon with all appropriate 911/E-911 information such as name, address, and telephone number via facsimile for Verizon's

entry into the 911/E-911 database system. Any 911/E-911-related data exchanged between the Parties prior to the availability of an electronic interface shall conform to Verizon standards, whereas 911/E-911-related data exchanged electronically shall conform to the National Emergency Number Association standards (NENA). Northstar may also use the electronic interface, where available, to query the 911/E-911 database to verify the accuracy of Northstar Customer information.

**3. 911 Interconnection**

Verizon and Northstar will use commercially reasonable efforts to facilitate the prompt, robust, reliable and efficient interconnection of Northstar systems to the 911/E-911 platforms and/or systems.

**4. 911 Facilities**

Northstar shall be responsible for providing facilities from the Northstar End Office to the 911 Tandem or selective router. Northstar shall deploy diverse routing of 911 trunk pairs to the 911 tandem or selective router.

**5. Local Number Portability for use with 911**

The Parties acknowledge that until Local Number Portability (LNP) with full 911/E-911 compatibility is utilized for all ported telephone numbers, the use of Interim Number Portability ("INP") creates a special need to have the Automatic Location Identification (ALI) screen reflect two numbers: the "old" number and the "new" number assigned by Northstar. Therefore, for those ported telephone numbers using INP, Northstar will provide the 911/E-911 database with both the forwarded number and the directory number, as well as all other required information including the appropriate address information for the Customer for entry into the 911/E-911 database system. Further, Northstar will out pulse the telephone number to which the call has been forwarded (that is, the Customer's ANI) to the 911 Tandem office or selective router. Northstar will include their NENA five character Company Identification ("COID") for inclusion in the ALI display.

5.1 Northstar is required to enter data into the 911/E-911 database under the NENA Standards for LNP. This includes, but is not limited to, using Northstar's NENA COID to lock and unlock records and the posting of Northstar's NENA COID to the ALI record where such locking and migrating feature for 911/E-911 records are available or as defined by local standards.

**6. PSAP Coordination**

Verizon and Northstar will work cooperatively to arrange meetings with PSAPs to answer any technical questions the PSAPs, or county or municipal coordinators may have regarding the 911/E-911 arrangements.

**7. 911 Compensation**

Northstar will compensate Verizon for connections to its 911/E-911 platform and/or system pursuant to the rate schedule included in the Pricing Attachment.

**8. 911 Rules and Regulations**

Northstar and Verizon will comply with all applicable rules and regulations (including 911 taxes and surcharges as defined by local requirements) pertaining to the provision of 911/E-911 services in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**9. Good Faith Performance**

If and, to the extent that, Verizon, prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement, has not provided in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a Service offered under this Attachment, Verizon reserves the right to negotiate in good faith with Northstar reasonable terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes) for such Service; and, if the Parties cannot agree to such terms and conditions (including, without limitation, rates and implementation timeframes), either Party may utilize the Agreement's dispute resolution procedures.



## PRICING ATTACHMENT

### 1. General

- 1.1 As used in this Attachment, the term "Charges" means the rates, fees, charges and prices for a Service.
- 1.2 Except as stated in Section 2 or Section 3 of this Attachment, Charges for Services shall be as stated in this Section 1.
- 1.3 The Charges for a Service shall be the Charges for the Service stated in the Providing Party's applicable Tariff.
- 1.4 In the absence of Charges for a Service established pursuant to Section 1.3 of this Attachment, the Charges shall be as stated in Appendix A of this Pricing Attachment. For rate elements provided in Appendix A of this Pricing Attachment that do not include a Charge, either marked as "TBD" or otherwise, Verizon is developing such Charges and has not finished developing such Charges as of the Effective Date of this Agreement ("Effective Date"). When Verizon finishes developing such a Charge, Verizon shall notify Northstar in writing of such Charge in accordance with, and subject to, the notices provisions of this Agreement and thereafter shall bill Northstar, and Northstar shall pay to Verizon, for Services provided under this Agreement on the Effective Date and thereafter in accordance with such Charge. Any notice provided by Verizon to Northstar pursuant to this Section 1.4 shall be deemed to be a part of Appendix A of this Pricing Attachment immediately after Verizon sends such notice to Northstar and thereafter.
- 1.5 The Charges stated in Appendix A of this Pricing Attachment shall be automatically superseded by any applicable Tariff Charges. The Charges stated in Appendix A of this Pricing Attachment also shall be automatically superseded by any new Charge(s) when such new Charge(s) are required by any order of the Commission or the FCC, approved by the Commission or the FCC, or otherwise allowed to go into effect by the Commission or the FCC (including, but not limited to, in a Tariff that has been filed with the Commission or the FCC), provided such new Charge(s) are not subject to a stay issued by any court of competent jurisdiction.
- 1.6 In the absence of Charges for a Service established pursuant to Sections 1.3 through 1.5 of this Attachment, if Charges for a Service are otherwise expressly provided for in this Agreement, such Charges shall apply.
- 1.7 In the absence of Charges for a Service established pursuant to Sections 1.3 through 1.6 of this Attachment, the Charges for the Service shall be the Providing Party's FCC or Commission approved Charges.
- 1.8 In the absence of Charges for a Service established pursuant to Sections 1.3 through 1.7 of this Attachment, the Charges for the Service shall be mutually agreed to by the Parties in writing.

### 2. Verizon Telecommunications Services Provided to Northstar for Resale Pursuant to the Resale Attachment

- 2.1 Verizon Telecommunications Services for which Verizon is Required to Provide a Wholesale Discount Pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act.

- 2.1.1 The Charges for a Verizon Telecommunications Service purchased by Northstar for resale for which Verizon is required to provide a wholesale discount pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act shall be the Retail Price for such Service set forth in Verizon's applicable Tariffs (or, if there is no Tariff Retail Price for such Service, Verizon's Retail Price for the Service that is generally offered to Verizon's Customers), less, to the extent required by Applicable Law: (a) the applicable wholesale discount stated in Verizon's Tariffs for Verizon Telecommunications Services purchased for resale pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act; or (b) in the absence of an applicable Verizon Tariff wholesale discount for Verizon Telecommunications Services purchased for resale pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act, the applicable wholesale discount stated in Appendix A for Verizon Telecommunications Services purchased for resale pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act.
- 2.1.2 The Charges for a Verizon Telecommunications Service Customer Specific Arrangement ("CSA") purchased by Northstar for resale pursuant to Section 3.3 of the Resale Attachment for which Verizon is required to provide a wholesale discount pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act shall be the Retail Price for the CSA, less, to the extent required by Applicable Law: (a) the applicable wholesale discount stated in Verizon's Tariffs for Verizon Telecommunications Services purchased for resale pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act; or (b) in the absence of an applicable Verizon Tariff wholesale discount for Verizon Telecommunications Services purchased for resale pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act, the applicable discount stated in Appendix A for Verizon Telecommunications Services purchased for resale pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in accordance with, and to the extent permitted by Applicable Law, Verizon may establish a wholesale discount for a CSA that differs from the wholesale discount that is generally applicable to Telecommunications Services provided to Northstar for resale pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act.
- 2.1.3 Notwithstanding Sections 2.1 and 2.2 of this Attachment, in accordance with, and to the extent permitted by Applicable Law, Verizon may at any time establish a wholesale discount for a Telecommunications Service (including, but not limited to, a CSA) that differs from the wholesale discount that is generally applicable to Telecommunications Services provided to Northstar for resale pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act.
- 2.1.4 The wholesale discount stated in Appendix A shall be automatically superseded by any new wholesale discount when such new wholesale discount is required by any order of the Commission or the FCC, approved by the Commission or the FCC, or otherwise allowed to go into effect by the Commission or the FCC, provided such new wholesale discount is not subject to a stay issued by any court of competent jurisdiction.
- 2.1.5 The wholesale discount provided for in Sections 2.1.1 through 2.1.3 of this Attachment shall not be applied to:
- 2.1.5.1 Short term promotions as defined in 47 CFR § 51.613;

- 2.1.5.2 Except as otherwise provided by Applicable Law, Exchange Access services;
- 2.1.5.3 Subscriber Line Charges, Federal Line Cost Charges, end user common line Charges, taxes, and government Charges and assessment (including, but not limited to, 9-1-1 Charges and Dual Party Relay Service Charges).
- 2.1.5.4 Any other service or Charge that the Commission, the FCC, or other governmental entity of appropriate jurisdiction determines is not subject to a wholesale discount under Section 251(c)(4) of the Act.

2.2 Verizon Telecommunications Services for which Verizon is Not Required to Provide a Wholesale Discount Pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act.

- 2.2.1 The Charges for a Verizon Telecommunications Service for which Verizon is not required to provide a wholesale discount pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act shall be the Charges stated in Verizon's Tariffs for such Verizon Telecommunications Service (or, if there are no Verizon Tariff Charges for such Service, Verizon's Charges for the Service that are generally offered by Verizon).
- 2.2.2 The Charges for a Verizon Telecommunications Service customer specific contract service arrangement ("CSA") purchased by Northstar pursuant to Section 3.3 of the Resale Attachment for which Verizon is not required to provide a wholesale discount pursuant to Section 251(c)(4) of the Act shall be the Charges provided for in the CSA and any other Charges that Verizon could bill the person to whom the CSA was originally provided (including, but not limited to, applicable Verizon Tariff Charges).

2.3 Other Charges.

- 2.3.1 Northstar shall pay, or collect and remit to Verizon, without discount, all Subscriber Line Charges, Federal Line Cost Charges, and end user common line Charges, associated with Verizon Telecommunications Services provided by Verizon to Northstar.

**3. Northstar Prices**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Charges that Northstar bills Verizon for Northstar's Services shall not exceed the Charges for Verizon's comparable Services, except to the extent that Northstar's cost to provide such Northstar's Services to Verizon exceeds the Charges for Verizon's comparable Services and Northstar has demonstrated such cost to Verizon, or, at Verizon's request, to the Commission or the FCC.

**4. [This Section Intentionally Left Blank]**

**5. Regulatory Review of Prices**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, each Party reserves its respective rights to institute an appropriate proceeding with the FCC, the Commission or other governmental body of appropriate jurisdiction: (a) with regard to the Charges for its Services (including, but not limited to, a proceeding to change the Charges for its services, whether provided for in any of its Tariffs, in Appendix A, or otherwise); and (b)

with regard to the Charges of the other Party (including, but not limited to, a proceeding to obtain a reduction in such Charges and a refund of any amounts paid in excess of any Charges that are reduced).

**APPENDIX A TO THE PRICING ATTACHMENT<sup>1</sup>**

**VERIZON MASSACHUSETTS AND NORTHSTAR  
V1.8**

**A. INTERCONNECTION<sup>2</sup>**

**I. Call Transport & Termination**

	Verizon Service	Non-recurring	Recurring
1.	Reciprocal Compensation Traffic Tandem or End Office Rate	Rates for Reciprocal Compensation are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time	
2.	Access charges for termination of intrastate and interstate Toll Traffic	Per Verizon FCC No. 11 interstate and DTE No. 15 intrastate access tariffs (charged in conjunction with Reciprocal Compensation Traffic, using Traffic Factor 1 and Traffic Factor 2, as appropriate) as amended from time to time	
3.	Entrance facilities, and transport, as appropriate, for Interconnection at Verizon End Office, Tandem Office, Serving Wire Center, or other Point of Interconnection	Per Verizon FCC No. 11 interstate and DTE No. 15 intrastate access tariffs for Feature Group D service as amended from time to time	

<sup>1</sup> This Appendix may contain rates for (and/or reference) services, facilities, arrangements and the like that Verizon does not have an obligation to provide under the Agreement (e.g., services, facilities, arrangements and the like for which an unbundling requirement does not exist under 47 U.S.C. Section 251(c)(3)). Notwithstanding any such rates (and/or references) and, for the avoidance of any doubt, nothing in this Appendix shall be deemed to require Verizon to provide a service, facility, arrangement or the like that the Agreement does not require Verizon to provide, or to provide a service, facility, arrangement or the like upon rates, terms or conditions other than those that may be required by the Agreement.

All rates and charges set forth in this Appendix shall apply until such time as they are replaced by new rates and/or charges as the Commission or the FCC may approve or allow to go into effect from time to time, subject however, to any stay or other order issued by any court of competent jurisdiction. In addition to any rates and charges set forth herein, Verizon, effective as of March 11, 2005, may, but shall not be required to, charge (and Northstar shall pay) any rates and charges that apply to a CLEC's embedded base of certain UNEs pursuant to the FCC's Order on Remand, *Unbundled Access to Network Elements; Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers*, WC Docket No. 04-313, CC Docket No. 01-338 (FCC rel. Feb. 4, 2005) (the "TRRO"), the foregoing being without limitation of other rates and charges that may apply under subsequent FCC orders or otherwise. In addition, as set forth in Industry Notices, surcharges may apply to certain rates contained herein in order to apply a rate equivalent to the resale discount rate for certain facilities and arrangements that are no longer available as unbundled network elements or combinations thereof.

<sup>2</sup> All rates and charges specified herein are pertaining to the Interconnection Attachment.

## II. Transit Service

- a. **Tandem Transit Traffic Service** (Switching) rates are found in DTE MA No. 17, as amended from time to time.
- b. **Dedicated Transit Service** rates are found in DTE MA No. 17, as amended from time to time.

## B. UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS<sup>3 4</sup>

I. **Ordering of Service rates** are found in DTE MA No. 17.

II. **Issuance, payment and Crediting of Customer Bills rates** are found in DTE MA No. 17.

## III. Unbundled Database Access

- a. **800/888 Database** - rates are found in DTE MA No. 17, as amended from time to time.
- b. **LIDB**
  - LIDB Service rates are found in DTE MA No. 17.
- LIDB Record management rates are found in DTE MA No. 17, as amended from time to time.
- c. **Common Channel Signaling Network Interconnection (CCS/SS7)** rates are found in DTE MA No. 17, as amended from time to time.

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<sup>3</sup> All rates and charges specified herein are pertaining to the Unbundled Network Element Attachment. Verizon does not agree that UNE prices must be based solely on forward-looking costs, and Verizon reserves the right to seek to change UNE prices to conform to any modification of the FCC's UNE pricing rules.

<sup>4</sup> For the avoidance of any doubt, in addition to any rates and charges set forth herein, Verizon, effective as of March 11, 2005, may, but shall not be required to, charge (and Northstar shall pay) any rates and charges that apply to a CLEC's embedded base of certain UNEs pursuant to the TRRO, the foregoing being without limitation of other rates and charges that may apply under subsequent FCC orders or otherwise; in addition, as set forth in Industry Notices, surcharges may apply to certain rates contained herein in order to apply a rate equivalent to the resale discount rate for certain facilities and arrangements that are no longer available as unbundled network elements or combinations thereof.

**IV. Unbundled Local Loops**

(a) Monthly and Non-Recurring rates for Two Wire, Four Wire, (including analog, digital (xDSL), premium and High Capacity Links) are found in DTE MA No. 17, as amended from time to time.

**V. Intrastate Collocation**

All rates for intrastate collocation shall be charged at rates found in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**VI. Line Sharing**

All rates for Line Sharing shall be charged at rates found in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**VII. Line Splitting**

Rates for Line Splitting are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**VIII. Unbundled IOF**

Rates for Unbundled IOF are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**IX. Unbundled Multiplexer**

Rates for Unbundled Multiplexer are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**X. Access to Signaling Systems and Call-Related Database Access**

Rates for Access to Signaling Systems and Call-Related Database Access are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17, as amended from time to time.

**XI. Unbundled Local Switching**

Rates for Unbundled Local Switching are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**XII. Unbundled Tandem Switching**

Rates for Unbundled Tandem Switching are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**XIII. Network Interface Device (NID) & House and Riser Cable**

Rates for Network Interface Device (NID) & House and Riser Cable are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**XIV. Expanded Extended Loop (EEL)**

Rates for Expanded Extended Loop are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**XV. Combinations of UNE - Switch Sub Platform**

Rates for Combinations of UNE - Switch Sub Platform are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**XVI. UNE-P Combinations**

UNE-P is a combination of existing network elements. Accordingly, UNE-P rates shall be determined by summing the rates for individual network elements found in the MA DTE No. 17 as amended from time to time.

<b>UNE PREMISES OFF PREMISES EXTENSION ANALOG PLATFORM</b>	<b>Recurring Charges</b>
<b>UNE OPE 2-W Analog Loop - Urban</b>	<b>\$14.11</b>
<b>UNE OPE 2-W Analog Loop - Suburban</b>	<b>\$16.12</b>
<b>UNE-P 2-W Analog Loop - Rural</b>	<b>\$20.04</b>

	<b>Non Recurring Charges</b>
<b>UNE-P OPE Service Connection - CO Wiring (per line)</b>	<b>\$1.90</b>
<b>UNE-P OPE Service Connection - CO Wiring (per line) - Expedite</b>	<b>\$1.90</b>

<b>UNE-P OPE Service Connection - Other (per line)</b>	<b>\$0.23</b>
<b>UNE-P OPE Service Connection - Other (per line) - Expedite</b>	<b>\$0.23</b>

<b>UNE-P OPE Installation Dispatch Out (as required) - 1 line</b>	<b>\$28.31</b>
<b>UNE-P OPE Installation Dispatch Out (as required) - 1 line - Expedite</b>	<b>\$28.31</b>
<b>UNE-P OPE Installation Dispatch Out (as required) - 2 - 9 lines</b>	<b>\$34.50</b>
<b>UNE-P OPE Installation Dispatch Out (as required) - 2 - 9 lines - Expedite</b>	<b>\$34.50</b>
<b>UNE-P OPE Installation Dispatch Out (as required) - 10 or more lines</b>	<b>\$40.25</b>
<b>UNE-P OPE Installation Dispatch Out (as required) - 10 or more lines - Expedite</b>	<b>\$40.25</b>

**XVII. Unbundled Dark Fiber**

Rates for Unbundled Dark Fiber are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.



**XVIII. Unbundled Sub-Loop Arrangements**

Per Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

## C. RESALE<sup>5</sup>

### I. Wholesale Discounts

Wholesale discounts are as set forth in the Mass. DTE No.14 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

Month- to- month discounts (per qualifying retail rate):

- a. Where Northstar purchases Verizon-provided Operator Services
  - (1) Business 24.99%
  - (2) Residence 24.99%
- b. Where Northstar does not purchase Verizon Operator Services
  - (1) Business 29.47%
  - (2) Residence 29.47%

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<sup>5</sup> All rates and charges specified herein are pertaining to the Resale Attachment.

**D. CUSTOMER USAGE DETAIL CHARGES**

Record Charges	
• Per record processed (EMR format)	\$0.004085
• Per record processed (Tandem Subtending Arrangement/EMR)	\$0.004085
• Per record transmitted	\$0.000118
• Per tape/cartridge	\$20.12

**E. 911/E911 INTERCONNECTION**

Monthly Rate:

I. \$252.00 per month for an unequipped DS1 Port and \$100 per month per voice grade trunk activated and equipped on the DS1 port.

II. \$0.05 per line per month for unbundled local Switching Element.

III. Per Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff.

**F. OPERATIONS SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

a. 1. Rates for access to, development, maintenance and use of Operations Support Systems, as related to the provision of unbundled Network Elements, are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time, subject to the provisions of the Network Elements Attachment.

b.1. Rates for all access to, development, maintenance and use of Operations Support Systems, as related to the provision of Resale, are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 14 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**G. TIME AND MATERIALS CHARGES**

Rates for Time and Materials are as set forth in Verizon's DTE MA No. 17 Tariff, as amended from time to time.

**EXHIBIT A TO SECTION 3.1 (FIBER MEET ARRANGEMENT) OF THE INTERCONNECTION  
ATTACHMENT**

**Technical Specifications and Requirements**

**for**

**Northstar - Verizon New England Inc., d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts  
Fiber Meet Arrangement No. [XX]**

The following technical specifications and requirements will apply to Northstar - Verizon New England Inc., d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts Fiber Meet Arrangement [NUMBER] ("FM No. [XX]"):

1. FM No. [XX] will provide interconnection facilities for the exchange of applicable traffic (as set forth in the Amendment) between Verizon's [NAME OF WIRE CENTER/CENTRAL OFFICE] and Northstar's [NAME OF SWITCH/WIRE CENTER/CENTRAL OFFICE] in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A diagram of FM No. [XX] is included as Exhibit A-1.
2. Fiber Meet Points ("FMPs").
  - 2.1 FM No. [XX] will be configured as shown on Exhibit A-1. FM No. [XX] will have two FMPs. Neither FMP is more than three (3) miles from the nearest Verizon Wire Center.
  - 2.2 Verizon will provision a Fiber Network Interface Device ("FNID") at [POLE XX, STREET YY, TOWN ZZ, STATE] and terminate [\_\_\_\_] strands of its fiber optic cable in the FNID. The FNID provisioned by Verizon will be a [MANUFACTURER, MODEL]. Verizon will bear the cost of installing and maintaining its FNID. The fiber patch panel within Verizon's FNID will serve as FMP No. 1. Verizon will provide a fiber stub at the fiber patch panel in Verizon's FNID for Northstar to connect [\_\_\_\_] strands of its fiber cable [\_\_\_\_] connectors. Verizon's FNID will be locked, but Verizon and Northstar will have 24 hour access to their respective side of the fiber patch panel located in Verizon's FNID.
  - 2.3 Northstar will provision a FNID at [POLE XX, STREET YY, TOWN ZZ, STATE] and terminate [\_\_\_\_] strands of its fiber optic cable in the FNID. The FNID provisioned by Northstar will be a [MANUFACTURER, MODEL]. Northstar will bear the cost of installing and maintaining its FNID. The fiber patch panel within Northstar's FNID will serve as FMP No. 2. Northstar will provide a fiber stub at the fiber patch panel in Northstar's FNID for Verizon to connect [\_\_\_\_] strands of its fiber cable. Northstar's FNID will be locked, but Northstar and Verizon will have 24 hour access to their respective side of the fiber patch panel located in Northstar's FNID.
3. Transmission Characteristics.
  - 3.1 FM No. [XX] will be built [as a ring configuration].
  - 3.2 The transmission interface for FM No. [XX] will be [Synchronous Optical Network ("SONET")].

- 3.3 Terminating equipment shall comply with [SONET transmission requirements as specified in Telcordia Technologies document GR-253 CORE (Tables 4-3 through 4-11)].
  - 3.4 The optical transmitters and receivers shall provide adequate power for the end-to-end length of the fiber cable to be traversed.
  - 3.5 The optical transmission rate will be [Unidirectional] OC-[XX].
  - 3.6 The path switch protection shall be set as [Non-Revertive].
  - 3.7 Verizon and Northstar shall provide [Primary Reference Source traceable timing].
4. Add Drop Multiplexer.
- 4.1 Verizon will, at its own cost, obtain and install (at its own premise) its own Add Drop Multiplexer. Verizon will use a [MANUFACTURER, MODEL] Add Drop Multiplexer with firmware release of [X.X] at the network level. Before making any upgrade or change to the firmware of its Add Drop Multiplexer, Verizon must provide Northstar with fourteen (14) days advance written notice that describes the upgrade or change to its firmware and states the date on which such firmware will be activated in Verizon's Add Drop Multiplexer.
  - 4.2 Northstar will, at its own cost, obtain and install (at its own premise) its own Add Drop Multiplexer. Northstar will use a [MANUFACTURER, MODEL] Add Drop Multiplexer with firmware release of [X.X] at the network level. Before making any upgrade or change to the firmware of its Add Drop Multiplexer, Northstar must provide Verizon with fourteen (14) days advance written notice that describes the upgrade or change to its firmware and states the date on which such firmware or software will be activated in Northstar's Add Drop Multiplexer.
  - 4.3 Northstar and Verizon will monitor all firmware upgrades and changes to observe for any failures or anomalies adversely affecting service or administration. If any upgrade or change to firmware adversely affects service or administration of FM No. [XX], the firmware will be removed from the Add Drop Multiplexer and will revert to the previous version of firmware.
  - 4.4 The Data Communication Channel shall be disabled between the Verizon and Northstar Add Drop Multiplexers of FM No. [XX].
5. Testing.
- 5.1 Prior to turn-up of FM No. [XX], Verizon and Northstar will mutually develop and implement testing procedures for FM No. [XX]
6. Connecting Facility Assignment ("CFA") and Slot Assignment Allocation ("SAA").
- 6.1 For one-way and two-way trunk arrangements, the SAA information will be turned over to Northstar as a final step of turn up of the FM No. [XX].
  - 6.2 For one-way trunk arrangements, Verizon will control the CFA for the subtending facilities and trunks connected to Verizon's slots and Northstar will control the CFA for the subtending facilities and trunks connected to Northstar's slots. Northstar will place facility orders against the first half of the *fully configured* slots (for example, slots 1-6 of a fully configured OC12) and Verizon will place orders

against the second half of the slots (for example, slots 7-12). If either Party needs the other Party's additional slot capacity to place orders, this will be negotiated and assigned on a case-by-case basis. For SAA, Verizon and Northstar shall jointly designate the slot assignments for Verizon's Add Drop Multiplexers and Northstar's Add Drop Multiplexer in FM No. [XX].

- 6.3 For two-way trunk arrangements, Northstar shall control the CFA for the subtending facilities and trunks connected to FM No. [XX]. Northstar shall place facility and trunk orders against the total available SAA capacity of FM No. [XX].

7. Inventory, Provisioning and Maintenance, Surveillance, and Restoration.

- 7.1 Verizon and Northstar will inventory FM No. [XX] in their operational support systems before the order flow begins.
- 7.2 Verizon and Northstar will notify each other's respective Maintenance Control Office of all troubleshooting and scheduled maintenance activity to be performed on FM No. [XX] facilities prior to undertaking such work, and will advise each other of the trouble reporting and maintenance control point contact numbers and the days and hours of operation. Each Party shall provide a timely response to the other Party's action requests or status inquiries.
- 7.3 Verizon will be responsible for the provisioning and maintenance of the FM No. [XX] transport facilities on Verizon's side of the FMPs, as well as delivering its applicable traffic to the FMPs. Northstar will be responsible for the provisioning and maintenance of the FM No. [XX] transport facilities on the Northstar's side of the FMPs, as well as delivering its applicable traffic to the FMPs. As such, other than payment of any applicable intercarrier compensation charges pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, neither Party shall have any obligation to pay the other Party any charges in connection with FM No. [XX].
- 7.4 Verizon and Northstar will provide alarm surveillance for their respective FM No. [XX] transport facilities. Verizon and Northstar will notify each other's respective maintenance control office of all troubleshooting and scheduled maintenance activity to be performed on the facility prior to undertaking such work, and will advise each other of the trouble reporting and maintenance control point contact numbers and the days and hours of operation.

8. Cancellation or Modification of FM No. [XX].

- 8.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Section 8, all expenses and costs associated with the construction, operation, use and maintenance of FM No. [XX] on each Party's respective side of the FMPs will be borne by such Party.
- 8.2 If either Party terminates the construction of the FM No. [XX] before it is used to exchange traffic, the Party terminating the construction of FM No. [XX] will compensate the other Party for that Party's reasonable actual incurred construction and/or implementation expenses.
- 8.3 If either Party proposes to move or change FM No. [XX] as set forth in this document, at any time before or after it is used to exchange traffic, the Party requesting the move or change will compensate the other Party for that Party's reasonable actual incurred construction and/or implementation expenses. Augments, moves and changes to FM No. [XX] as set forth in this document must be mutually agreed upon by the Parties in writing.

**NORTHSTAR TELECOM, INC.**

**VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC., D/B/A VERIZON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit A-1**

Northstar - Verizon New England Inc., d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts Fiber Meet  
Arrangement No. [XX]

City, State