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> > May 8, 2006

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Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director Commission Clerk and Administrative Services Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 110 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850 HAND DELIVED FISCO

Re: Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement between Northeast Florida Telephone Company (NEFCOM) and Verizon Wireless

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing and approval are the original and two copies of the Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement between Northeast Florida Telephone Company (NEFCOM) and Verizon Wireless.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your assistance with this filing.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Hoffman

fenth & Hope

KAH/rl Enclosures

cc: Mr. Richard Bolduc

bayo.may8ltr

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WIRELESS INTERCONNECTION AND RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

NORTHEAST FLORIDA TELEPHONE COMPANY

AND

VERIZON WIRELESS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Article I
 - 1. Introduction
 - 2. Recitals
- II. Article II
 - 1. Definitions
 - 2. Interpretation and Construction
 - 3. Scope
 - 4. Service Agreement
 - 5. Compensation
 - 6. Notice of Changes
 - 7. General Responsibilities of the Parties
 - 8. Term and Termination
 - 9. Cancellation Charges
 - 10. Non-Severability
 - 11. Indemnification
 - 12. Limitation of Liability
 - 13. Disclaimer
 - 14. Regulatory Approval
 - 15. Pending Judicial Appeals and Regulatory Reconsideration
 - 16. Most Favored Nation Provision
 - 17. Miscellaneous
 - 18. Dispute Resolution
 - 19. Attachments:
 - A. State Specific Rates and Factors
 - B. Reserved For Future Use

I. Article I

1. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

This Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement ("Agreement") is effective as of the 29th day of April 2005 (the "Effective Date"), by and between Northeast Florida Telephone Company, Inc. ("NEFCOM"), with offices at 130 North 4th Street, Macclenny, Florida, and Verizon Wireless Personal Communications LP d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("VZW") with offices at 180 Washington Valley Road, Bedminster, NJ 07921.

2. <u>RECITALS</u>

WHEREAS, NEFCOM is an incumbent Local Exchange Carrier authorized to provide telecommunications services in the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, VZW is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to provide Commercial Mobile Radio Services ("CMRS") and provides such service to its end user customers within the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, NEFCOM and VZW exchange calls between their networks and wish to establish Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation arrangements for exchanging traffic as specified below;

WHEREAS, this Agreement is intended to fulfill each Party's obligations under subsection 251(a) of the Communications Act, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996;

WHEREAS, NEFCOM certifies that it is a rural telephone company and is exempt from Section 251(c) pursuant to Section 251(f)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act");

WHEREAS, Sections 251 and 252 of the "Act", have specific requirements for Interconnection, and the Parties intend that this Agreement meets these requirements; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual provisions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, NEFCOM and VZW hereby agree as follows:

II. Article II

1. **DEFINITIONS**

Special meanings are given to common words in the telecommunications industry, and coined words and acronyms are common in the custom and usage in the

industry. Words used in this contract are to be understood according to the custom and usage of the telecommunications industry, as an exception to the general rule of contract interpretation that words are to be understood in their ordinary and popular sense. In addition to this rule of interpretation, the following terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings as specified below:

- 1.1 "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- "Affiliate" means a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "own" means to own an equity interest (or the equivalent thereof) of more than 10 percent.
- 1.3 "Central Office Switch" means a switch used to provide Telecommunications Services, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) "End Office Switch" is a switch in which the subscriber station loops are terminated for connection to either lines or trunks. The subscriber receives terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions for a defined geographic area by means of an End Office Switch.
 - (b) "Remote End Office Switch" is a switch in which the subscriber station loops are terminated. The control equipment providing terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions would reside in a host office. Local switching capabilities may be resident in a Remote End Office Switch.
 - (c) "Host Office Switch" is a switch with centralized control over the functions of one or more Remote End Office Switches. A Host Office Switch can serve as an end office as well as providing services to other remote end offices requiring terminating, signaling, transmission, and related functions including local switching.
- 1.4 "Commercial Mobile Radio Services" or "CMRS" means Commercial Mobile Radio Services as defined in 47 C.F.R. Part 20.
- 1.5 "Commission" is defined as the Florida Public Service Commission.
- 1.6 "Effective Date" means the date first above written.
- 1.7 "Extended Area Service" or "EAS" is as defined and specified in NEFCOM's then current General Subscriber Services Tariff.
- 1.8 "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission.

- 1.9 "Interconnection" for purposes of this Agreement is the linking of NEFCOM's and VZW's networks for the exchange of Telecommunications Traffic described in this Agreement.
- 1.10 "Interexchange Carrier" or "IXC" denotes any carrier, other than a CMRS carrier, that provides or carries intrastate, interstate or foreign communications by wire or radio, between two or more exchanges.
- 1.11 "InterMTA Traffic" is traffic between a LEC and a CMRS provider that, at the beginning of the call, originates and terminates within two separate Major Trading Areas, as defined in 47 CFR § 24.202(a). InterMTA Traffic will not be subject to Reciprocal Compensation.
- 1.12 "ISP Bound Traffic" has the same meaning as in the FCC's Order on Remand and Report and Order in the matter of Intercarrier Compensation for ISP-bound Traffic. May be traffic that originates from or terminates to an enhanced service provider. Does not include traditional phone-to-phone calling that uses an IP backbone as an incidental part of a transport function, but does include IP traffic that undergoes a net protocol conversion or where there is a change in content.
- 1.13 "Local Exchange Carrier" or "LEC" is as defined in the Act.
- 1.14 "Local Service Exchange Area" is, for NEFCOM, its local calling area as specified in its General Subscribers Services Tariff, and for VZW, MTA Number 37 (Jacksonville). For purposes of this Agreement, intercarrier compensation will apply to calls originated and terminated between NEFCOM's end user local customers physically located within this area and end user customers served by VZW within the Major Trading Area as defined in Section 1.15 below.
- 1.15 "Major Trading Area" or "MTA" means Major Trading Area as defined by the FCC in 47 C.F.R. Part 24.202.
- "Mobile Service" means a radio communication service carried on between mobile stations or receivers and land stations, and by Mobile Stations communicating among themselves, and includes (a) both one-way and two-way radio communication services, (b) a mobile service which provides a regularly interacting group of base, mobile, portable, and associated control and relay stations (whether licensed on an individual, cooperative, or multiple basis) for private one-way or two-way land mobile radio communications by eligible users over designated areas of operation, and (c) any service for which a license is required in a personal communications service established pursuant to the FCC proceeding entitled "Amendment to the Commission's Rules to Establish New Personal Communications Services" (GEN Docket No. 90-314; ET Docket No. 92-100), or any successor proceeding.

- 1.17 "Mobile Station" means a radio-communication station capable of being moved and which ordinarily does move.
- 1.18 "Mobile Switching Center" or "MSC" is a switching facility that performs the switching for the routing of calls among its mobile subscribers and subscribers in other mobile or landline networks. The MSC is used to connect and switch trunk circuits within the wireless network and between the wireless network and the public switched network for wireless traffic by a CMRS provider.
- 1.19 "NPA" or the "Number Plan Area" also referred to as an "area code" refers to the three-digit code which precedes the NXX in a dialing sequence and identifies the general calling area within the North American Numbering Plan scope to which a call is routed to (i.e., NPA/NXX-XXXX).
- 1.20 "NXX" means the three-digit code, which appears as the first three digits of a seven-digit telephone number within a valid NPA or area code.
- 1.21 "Party" means either NEFCOM or VZW, and "Parties" means NEFCOM and VZW.
- 1.22 "Point of Interconnection" ("POI") means the technically feasible point of demarcation where the exchange of Telecommunications Traffic takes place. For direct interconnection, it is the physical point on NEFCOM's network where the two Parties interconnect their respective networks. The POI is the demarcation point between ownership of the transmission facility. For indirect interconnection, the POI is where the third-party tandem provider delivers traffic to the terminating Party's network.
- 1.23 "Rate Center" means the specific geographic point and corresponding geographic area that is associated with one or more NPA-NXX codes that have been assigned to an incumbent LEC for its provision of telecommunications services.
- 1.24 "Reciprocal Compensation" means an arrangement between two carriers in which each receives compensation from the other carrier for the transport and termination on each carrier's network of Telecommunications Traffic, as defined in Section 1.27 below, that originates on the network facilities of the other carrier.
- 1.25 "Telecommunications" means the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received.
- 1.26 "Telecommunications Carrier" means any provider of telecommunications services, except that such term does not include aggregators of telecommunications services (as defined in 47 U.S.C. Section 226(a)(2)). A telecommunications carrier shall be treated as a common carrier under this chapter only to the extent that it is engaged in providing telecommunications

- services, except that the Federal Communications Commission shall determine whether the provision of fixed and mobile satellite service shall be treated as common carriage.
- 1.27 "Telecommunications Traffic" is defined for purposes of compensation under this Agreement as traffic that (a) is originated by a customer of one Party on that Party's network, (b) terminates to a customer of the other Party on the other Party's network within the same Major Trading Area, as defined in 47 CFR § 24.202(a), and (c) may be carried by a tandem LEC pursuant to an approved interconnection agreement between the originating Party and that tandem LEC providing contractual transit services for the originating Party in lieu of a direct connection between the Parties. For purposes of determining originating and terminating points, the originating or terminating point for NEFCOM shall be the NEFCOM end office serving the calling or called party, and for VZW shall be the originating or terminating cell site location which services the calling or called party at the beginning of the call.
- 1.28 "Termination" means the switching of Telecommunications Traffic at the terminating carrier's End Office Switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of such traffic to the called party.
- 1.29 "Transiting Traffic" is traffic that originates from one provider's network, "transits" one or more other provider's network substantially unchanged, and terminates to yet another provider's network.
- 1.30 "Transport" means the transmission and any necessary tandem switching of Telecommunications Traffic subject to Section 251(b)(5) of the Act from the Point of Interconnection between the two carriers to the terminating carrier's End Office Switch that directly serves the called party, or equivalent facility provided by a carrier other than an incumbent LEC.
- 1.31 "Type 1 Service" often referred to as a line-side trunk connection, is a service that involves connection to a telephone company end office similar to that provided to a private branch exchange (PBX). A type 1 Service is offered in connection with the provision of telephone numbers hosted by a NEFCOM switch.
- 1.32 "Type 2 Service" often referred to as a trunk side connection, is a service that involves interconnection to a telephone company end office (Type 2-B) or tandem (Type 2-A).

2.0 INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION

All references to Sections, Exhibits, Attachments and Schedules shall be deemed to be references to Sections of, and Exhibits, Attachments and Schedules to, this Agreement

unless the context shall otherwise require. The headings of the Sections and the terms are inserted for convenience of reference only and are not intended to be a part of or to affect the meaning of this Agreement. Unless the context shall otherwise require, any reference to any agreement, other instrument or other third party offering, guide or practice, statute, regulation, rule or tariff is for convenience of reference only and is not intended to be a part of or to affect the meaning of a rule or tariff as amended and supplemented from time-to-time (and, in the case of a statute, regulation, rule or tariff, to any successor provision).

3.0 SCOPE

- 3.1 This Agreement is intended, <u>inter alia</u>, to describe and enable specific Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation arrangements between the Parties. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to provide arrangements not specifically provided for herein.
- 3.2 This Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and rates under which the Parties agree to interconnect the CMRS network of VZW and the LEC network of NEFCOM for purposes of exchanging Telecommunications Traffic, provided that the service provided by VZW to its customer is a two-way Mobile Service as defined in 47 U.S.C. §153(27). This Agreement does not cover VZW one-way paging service traffic or fixed wireless. VZW does not currently provide fixed wireless services in NEFCOM's service area, as defined in NEFCOM's general subscriber's tariff. VZW agrees that it will provide NEFCOM prior notice of its intent to launch fixed wireless services in NEFCOM's service area. Upon NEFCOM's receipt of such notice, the Parties agree to negotiate an appropriate agreement or an Amendment to this Agreement, which will address the exchange of such traffic.
- 3.3 VZW is a CMRS provider of telecommunications services to subscribers in MTA No. 37 (Jacksonville). VZW's NPA/NXXs are listed in Telcordia's Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") under Operating Company Number ("OCN") 6502.
- 3.4 This Agreement is limited to NEFCOM end user customers' traffic for which NEFCOM has tariff authority to carry. NEFCOM's NPA/NXX(s) are listed in the LERG under OCN 0335.
- 3.5 This Agreement does not cover ISP-bound traffic, traffic for which the originated party has contracted with an interexchange carrier ("IXC") to assume responsibility for termination of traffic, or traffic originated by an IXC pursuant to the IXC's rate schedules, tariffs, end-users contracts, or presubscription rules.

4.0 **SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Description of Arrangements. This Agreement provides for the following interconnection and arrangements between the networks of NEFCOM and VZW. Additional arrangements that may be agreed to in the future will be delineated in Attachment B to this Agreement. Subject to the compromise arrangement referenced in Section 4.2 below, an NPA/NXX assigned to VZW shall be treated as Local Service Exchange Area traffic and included in any local or EAS calling scope, or similar program, to the same extent as any NEFCOM or other incumbent LEC's NPA/NXX in the same rate center provided that VZW assigns numbers from such NPA/NXX to customers within the Local Service Exchange Area of NEFCOM and VZW has network facilities to serve such customers. Routing of Telecommunications Traffic shall be as described in this section, except that, alternatives may be employed in the event of emergency or temporary equipment failure.

- 4.1 <u>Indirect Interconnection:</u> The Parties agree to interconnect their networks indirectly via a third party LEC ("Third Party Tandem Provider") in order to exchange Telecommunications Traffic, and each party shall be responsible for providing the trunks from its network to the point of interconnection on the terminating party's network. This arrangement for indirect interconnection will be subject to renegotiation if by change of law or for any other reason the Third Party Tandem Provider no longer offers the transiting service.
- Direct Interconnection: In an effort to reach an agreement, the Parties have 4.2 reached the following compromise in the context of this Agreement. It is VZW's position that economic and business factors, including but not limited to the volume of traffic exchanged and the distance between the Parties switches, should determine the need for the establishment of a direct interconnection. It is NEFCOM's position that a direct connection is required for routing landline-to-wireless Local Service Exchange Area traffic. As a compromise, and in exchange for certain other considerations provided for in this Agreement, the Parties agree that direct interconnection of their networks will be required in order to exchange Local Service Exchange Area traffic. The Parties agree that this compromise will in no way prejudice any position either Party may take with respect to future agreements or regulatory or legislative proceedings regarding the need to establish direct interconnection in order to receive landline-to-wireless Local Service Exchange Area traffic. Further, the Parties agree that this arrangement for direct interconnection is subject to the provisions of Section 15 of this Agreement should the FCC, Commission or other entity with competent jurisdiction issue a ruling regarding the rating of traffic exchanged indirectly. For direct interconnection, the POI shall be at any technically feasible point on NEFCOM's network.
- 4.3 <u>Transit Traffic</u>: The Parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement is intended to govern the exchange of Telecommunications Traffic to and from the Parties' respective networks only. NEFCOM or VZW shall not perform a transiting function pursuant to this Agreement. If a transiting function is desired by either Party, the requesting Party will request an amendment to this Agreement.

4.4 Each Party agrees that it will not provision any of its services to permit the arbitrage or circumvention of state or interstate access charges, including the resale or bridging of calling services beyond the specified Local Service Exchange Areas as defined in the applicable local tariffs, or the assignment of NPA-NXX numbers associated with one Rate Center for end users that obtain local exchange service in a different Rate Center. Traffic that originates from or terminates to NPA-NXXs within the Local Service Exchange Area of NEFCOM, and between end user customers of the CMRS provider within the MTA, is considered to be NEFCOM originated or terminated traffic and subject to Reciprocal Compensation at rates set forth in Attachment A. Traffic to or from end users that originate or terminate in areas other than those defined in this agreement as being subject to Reciprocal Compensation, is subject to access charges regardless whether the traffic may have been converted to IP or any other protocol during the routing and transmission of the call.

5.0 **COMPENSATION**

5.1 <u>Traffic Subject to Reciprocal Compensation</u>.

Reciprocal Compensation is applicable for Transport and Termination of Telecommunications Traffic as defined in Section 1.27 and is related to the exchange of traffic described in Section 4.1, 4.2 and in Attachment B, as applicable. For the purposes of billing compensation for Telecommunications Traffic, billed minutes may be based upon actual recorded usage. For actual recorded usage, measured usage begins when the terminating recording switch receives answer supervision from the called end-user and ends when the terminating recording switch receives or sends disconnect (release message) supervision, whichever occurs first. The measured usage is aggregated at the end of the measurement cycle and rounded to a whole minute. Billing for Telecommunications Traffic shall be based on the aggregated measured usage less traffic recorded as local that is InterMTA Traffic. The Parties agree that if actual usage recordings are not available, the records/reports provided by the third-party transit provider maybe used as the basis for billing until actual measured usage is available.

The rates for Reciprocal Compensation are contained in **Attachment A**.

The Parties agree to bill each other for Telecommunications Traffic as described in this Agreement unless the Telecommunications Traffic exchanged between the Parties is balanced and equals an agreed upon threshold ("Traffic Balance Threshold"). The Parties agree that for purposes of this Agreement, the Traffic Balance Threshold is reached when the Telecommunications Traffic exchanged, both directly and indirectly, equals 55%/45%. When the actual usage data for three (3) consecutive months indicates that the Telecommunications Traffic exchanged, both directly and indirectly, equals the Traffic Balance Threshold, then either Party may provide the other Party a written request, along with verifiable information supporting such request, to eliminate billing for Reciprocal Compensation per minute. Upon written consent by the Party receiving the

request, which shall not be withheld unreasonably, there will be no billing for Reciprocal Compensation on a going forward basis until the Traffic Balance Threshold falls outside 55%/45% for three consecutive months. The Parties' agreement to eliminate billing for Reciprocal Compensation carries with it the precondition regarding the Traffic Balance Threshold discussed above. As such, the two points have been negotiated as one interrelated term containing specific rates and conditions, which are non-separable for purposes of Section 16, hereof.

5.2 <u>Traffic Subject to Switched Access Compensation.</u>

Parties agree that traffic rated and recorded as Telecommunications Traffic, may originate or terminate in another MTA, and is therefore InterMTA Traffic and subject to Switched Access Compensation.

Switched Access Compensation is applicable to all InterMTA Traffic exchanged between NEFCOM and VZW, to the extent that such traffic is not handed off to an IXC. VZW shall compensate NEFCOM at NEFCOM's switched access rates for all such InterMTA Traffic.

5.3 <u>Calculation of Payments and Billing.</u>

- 5.3.1 NEFCOM shall compensate VZW for Telecommunications Traffic that is delivered by NEFCOM to VZW, as prescribed in Sections 4.1, 4.2 and in Attachment B, as applicable, and at the rate provided in Attachment A. VZW will compensate NEFCOM for Telecommunications Traffic delivered to NEFCOM for termination to its customers, as prescribed in Sections 4.1, 4.2, and in Attachment B, as applicable and at the rate provided in Attachment A; and for InterMTA Traffic exchanged between VZW & NEFCOM, as prescribed and at the rates provided in Section 5.2, above.
- 5.3.2 VZW shall prepare a monthly billing statement to NEFCOM, reflecting the calculation of Reciprocal Compensation due VZW. NEFCOM shall prepare a monthly billing statement to VZW, which will separately reflect the calculation of Reciprocal Compensation and Switched Access Compensation due NEFCOM. Billing shall be based on actual measured usage, when available. If actual measured usage is not available, the Parties agree that usage from the third-party transit provider may be used for billing. Alternatively, if VZW does not measure or cannot obtain the landline-to-wireless usage data from NEFCOM or from the third-party transit provider, then VZW may bill using a factor that is based on each Party's proportion of originating Telecommunications Traffic to total Telecommunications Traffic exchanged between the Parties. This estimated percentage is referred to as the Traffic Factor and is listed in Attachment A. The Parties agree to review the Traffic Factor on a periodic basis and, if warranted by the actual usage, revise the Traffic Factor appropriately.

- 5.3.3 NEFCOM will prepare its bill in accordance with its existing CABS / SECABS billing systems. VZW will prepare its bill in accordance with its existing process for billing Reciprocal Compensation. The Parties will make an effort to conform to current and future OBF (CABS BOS) standards, insofar as is reasonable.
- 5.3.4 All invoices under this Agreement shall be sent to:

VZW	NEFCOM
James Green	Beth Colson
Verizon Wireless	Townes Telecommunications Services
12802 Tampa Oaks Blvd.	Corp.
Temple Terrace, FL 33637	505 Plaza Circle, Suite 200
813-615-4956	Orange Park, FL 32073

- 5.3.5 Should NEFCOM be unable to measure the InterMTA Traffic, or in the event that VZW does not track the usage information required to identify the InterMTA Traffic originated or terminated by NEFCOM, it shall be assumed that a percent of the total traffic (as measured by minutes of use) exchanged between the Parties is InterMTA Traffic. This percentage is contained in **Attachment A**. The actual recorded usage shall be the basis for measuring InterMTA Traffic and billing, when available and verifiable.
- 5.3.6 Where dedicated interconnection facilities are used for two-way traffic exchanged between the Parties, the charges for such facilities, provided and billed by NEFCOM, or a third party provider, shall be shared between the Parties based upon the Traffic Factor percentages listed in **Attachment A**. The Parties agree to review these percentages on a periodic basis and, if warranted by the actual usage, revise the percentages appropriately. The Parties agree that at the time of the signing of the agreement there are no direct interconnection facilities in place between the Parties.
- 5.3.7 Either Party may conduct an audit of the other Party's books and records pertaining to the services provided under this Agreement no more than once per twelve (12) month period to evaluate the other Party's accuracy of billing, data and invoicing in accordance with this Agreement. Any audit shall be performed as follows: (a) following at least thirty (30) business days prior written notice to the audited Party, (b) subject to the reasonable scheduling requirements and limitations of the audited Party, (c) at the auditing Party's sole expense, (d) of a reasonable scope and duration, (e) in a manner so as not to interfere with the audited Party's business operations, and (f) in compliance with the audited Party's security rules.

6.0 NOTICE OF CHANGES

If a Party contemplates a change in its network, which it believes will materially affect the inter-operability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide at least ninety (90) days advance written notice of such change to the other Party.

7.0 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

- 7.1 The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including The National Network Security Plan and The Emergency Preparedness Plan. Neither Party shall use any service related to or use any of the Services provided in this Agreement in any manner that prevents other persons from using their service or destroys the normal quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's customers, and subject to notice and a reasonable opportunity of the offending Party to cure any violation, either Party may discontinue or refuse service if the other Party violates this provision.
- 7.2 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its customers and to other Telecommunications Carriers.
- 7.3 Each Party is responsible for obtaining Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") listings of the Common Language Location Identifier ("CLLI") assigned to its switches.
- 7.4 SS7 Out of Band Signaling (CCS/SS7) shall be the signaling of choice for interconnecting trunks where technically feasible for both Parties. Use of a third-party provider of SS7 trunks for connecting VZW to the NEFCOM SS7 systems is permitted. Such connections will meet generally accepted industry technical standards. Each Party is responsible for its own SS7 signaling and therefore, neither Party will bill the other for SS7 signaling or usage charges.
- 7.5 911/E911 Each Party shall be responsible for its own independent connections to the 911/E911 network.

8.0 TERM AND TERMINATION

8.1 Subject to the provisions of Sections 14, the initial term of this Agreement shall be a one-year term ("Term"), which shall commence on the Effective Date. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive six-month periods, unless, not less than sixty (60) days prior to the end of the Term or any renewal term, either Party notifies the other Party of its intent to renegotiate a new agreement. In the event of such renegotiation, this Agreement shall remain in effect until such time that a new agreement becomes effective, either through negotiations or arbitration under 252.

- 8.2 The Parties agree that disputed and undisputed amounts due under this Agreement shall be handled as follows:
- If any portion of an amount due to a Party (the "Billing Party") under this 8.2.1 Agreement is subject to a bona fide dispute between the Parties, the Party billed (the "Non-Paying Party") shall, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the invoice containing such disputed amount, give written 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. The Non-Paying Party shall pay when due all undisputed amounts to the Billing Party. The Parties will work together in good faith to resolve issues relating to the disputed amounts. If the dispute is resolved such that payment of the disputed amount is required, whether for the original full amount or for the settlement amount, the Non-paying Party shall pay the full disputed or settlement amounts with interest at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Florida state law. In addition, the Billing Party may initiate a complaint proceeding with the appropriate regulatory or judicial entity, if unpaid undisputed amounts become more than ninety (90) days past due, provided the Billing Party gives an additional thirty (30) days notice and opportunity to cure the default.
- 8.2.2 Any undisputed amounts not paid when due shall accrue interest from the date such amounts were due at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under applicable state law.
- 8.2.3 Undisputed amounts shall be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice from the Billing Party.
- 8.2.4 Failure of either Party to pay undisputed charges shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement. If either Party fails to pay when due any undisputed charges billed to them under this Agreement, and any portion of such charges remain unpaid more than thirty (30) days after the due date of such undisputed charges, the Billing Party may notify the billed Party in writing that in order to avoid having service disconnected, the billed Party must remit all undisputed unpaid charges to the Billing Party within thirty (30) days after receipt of said notice.
- 8.2.5 Either Party may discontinue service to the other Party upon failure to pay undisputed unpaid charges as provided in Section 8.2.4. To the extent necessary, either party may request the assistance of a third-party LEC in order to effectuate disconnection.
- 8.2.6 After disconnect procedures have begun, the Billing Party will not accept service orders from the non-paying Party until all undisputed unpaid charges are paid in full, in immediately available funds. The Billing Party will have the right to

require a deposit equal to one month's charges (based on the highest previous month of service from the Billing Party) prior to resuming service to the non-paying Party after disconnection for nonpayment.

- 8.3 Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement in accordance with this Section:
 - (a) Each Party shall comply immediately with its obligations as set forth above;
 - (b) Each Party shall promptly pay all undisputed amounts (including any late payment charges) owed under this Agreement;
 - (c) Each Party's indemnification obligations shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.
- 8.4 Either Party may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part in the event of a default of the other Party, provided, however, that the non-defaulting Party notifies the defaulting Party in writing of the alleged default and the defaulting Party does not implement mutually acceptable steps to remedy such alleged default within thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice thereof.

9.0 <u>CANCELLATION CHARGES</u>

Except as provided herein, no cancellation charges shall apply.

10.0 NON-SEVERABILITY

- 10.1 The services, arrangements, terms and conditions of this Agreement were mutually negotiated by the Parties as a total arrangement and are intended to be non-severable.
- 10.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring or permitting either Party to contravene any mandatory requirement of federal or state law, or any regulations or orders adopted pursuant to such law.

11.0 INDEMNIFICATION

11.1 Each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall indemnify and hold harmless the other Party ("Indemnified Party") from and against loss, cost, claim liability, damage, and expense (including reasonable attorney's fees) to customers and other third parties for:

- (1) damage to tangible personal property or for personal injury proximately caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnifying Party, its employees, agents or contractors;
- (2) claims for libel, slander, or infringement of copyright arising from the material transmitted over the Indemnified Party's facilities arising from the Indemnifying Party's own communications or the communications of such Indemnifying Party's customers; and
- (3) claims for infringement of patents arising from combining the Indemnified Party's facilities or services with, or the using of the Indemnified Party's services or facilities in connection with, facilities of the Indemnifying Party.

Notwithstanding this indemnification provision or any other provision in the Agreement, neither Party, nor its parent, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, or employees, shall be liable to the other for Consequential Damages (as defined in Section 12.3).

- 11.2 The Indemnified Party will notify the Indemnifying Party promptly in writing of any claims, lawsuits, or demands by customers or other third parties for which the Indemnified Party alleges that the Indemnifying Party is responsible under this Section, and, if requested by the Indemnifying Party, will tender the defense of such claim, lawsuit or demand.
 - (1) In the event the Indemnifying Party does not promptly assume or diligently pursue the defense of the tendered action, then the Indemnified Party may proceed to defend or settle said action and the Indemnifying Party shall hold harmless the Indemnified Party from any loss, cost liability, damage and expense.
 - (2) In the event the Party otherwise entitled to indemnification from the other elects to decline such indemnification, then the Party making such an election may, at its own expense, assume defense and settlement of the claim, lawsuit or demand.
 - (3) The Parties will cooperate in every reasonable manner with the defense or settlement of any claim, demand, or lawsuit.
 - (4) Neither Party shall accept the terms of a settlement that involves or references the other Party in any matter without the other Party's approval.

12.0 <u>LIMITATION OF LIABILITY</u>

12.1 No liability shall attach to either Party, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees, officers, directors, or partners for damages arising from errors,

mistakes, omissions, interruptions, or delays in the course of establishing, furnishing, rearranging, moving, terminating, changing, or providing or failing to provide services or facilities (including the obtaining or furnishing of information with respect thereof or with respect to users of the services or facilities) in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

- 12.2 Except as otherwise provided in Section 11.0, no Party shall be liable to the other Party for any loss, defect or equipment failure caused by the conduct of the first Party, its agents, servants, contractors or others acting in aid or concert with that Party, except in the case of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- 12.3 In no event shall either Party have any liability whatsoever to the other Party for any indirect, special, consequential, incidental or punitive damages, including but not limited to loss of anticipated profits or revenue or other economic loss in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted or done hereunder (collectively, "Consequential Damages"), even if the other Party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

13.0 **DISCLAIMER**

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

14.0 REGULATORY APPROVAL

The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement will be filed with the Commission, and to the extent required by FCC rules may thereafter be filed with the FCC. Each Party covenants and agrees to fully support approval of this Agreement by the Commission or the FCC under Section 252(e) of the Act without modification. The Parties, however, reserve the right to seek regulatory relief and otherwise seek redress from each other regarding performance and implementation of this Agreement. In the event the Commission or FCC rejects this Agreement in whole or in part, the Parties agree to meet and negotiate in good faith to arrive at a mutually acceptable modification of the rejected portion(s). Further, this Agreement is subject to change, modification, or cancellation as may be required by a regulatory authority or court in the exercise of its lawful jurisdiction.

The Parties agree that their entrance into this Agreement is without prejudice to any positions they may have taken previously, or may take in future, in any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related to the same types of arrangements covered in this Agreement.

15.0 PENDING JUDICIAL APPEALS AND REGULATORY RECONSIDERATION

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

16.0 MOST FAVORED NATION PROVISION

In accordance with § 252(i) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. §51.809, VZW shall be entitled to adopt from NEFCOM any entire Interconnection/Compensation agreement provided by NEFCOM to any other CMRS provider that has been filed and approved by the Commission, for services described in such agreement, on the same terms and conditions. The term of the adopted agreement shall expire on the same date as set forth in the agreement that was adopted.

17.0 MISCELLANEOUS

17.1 Authorization

17.1.1 NEFCOM is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Florida and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to any necessary regulatory approval.

- 17.1.2 Verizon Wireless Personal Communications LP d/b/a Verizon Wireless is a limited partnership duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to any necessary regulatory approval.
- 17.2 <u>Compliance</u>. Each Party shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations applicable to its performance under this Agreement.
- 17.3 <u>Independent Contractors</u>. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by VZW or NEFCOM in compliance with this Agreement, shall be deemed to create an agency or joint venture relationship between VZW and NEFCOM, or any relationship other than that of co-carriers. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by VZW or NEFCOM in compliance with this Agreement, shall create a contractual, agency, or any other type of relationship or third party liability between VZW and NEFCOM end users or others.
- 17.4 Force Majeure. Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, work stoppages, equipment failure, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions or any other circumstances beyond the reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of the Party affected. (collectively, a "Force Majeure Event"). If any Force Majeure condition occurs, the Party delayed or unable to perform shall give immediate notice to the other Party and shall take all reasonable steps to correct the force majeure condition. During the pendency of the Force Majeure, the duties of the Parties under this Agreement affected by the Force Majeure condition shall be abated and shall resume without liability thereafter.

17.5 Confidentiality.

17.5.1 Any information such as specifications, drawings, sketches, business information, forecasts, models, samples, data, computer programs and other software and documentation of one Party (a Disclosing Party) that is furnished or made available or otherwise disclosed to the other Party or any of its employees, contractors, or agents (its "Representatives" and with a Party, a "Receiving Party") pursuant to this Agreement ("Proprietary Information") shall be deemed the property of the Disclosing Party. Proprietary Information, if written, shall be clearly and conspicuously marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary" or other similar notice, and, if oral or visual, shall be confirmed in writing as confidential by the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days after disclosure. Unless Proprietary Information was previously known by the Receiving Party free of any obligation to keep it confidential, or has been or is subsequently made public by an act not attributable to the Receiving Party, or is explicitly agreed in writing not to be regarded as confidential, such information: (i) shall be held in

confidence by each Receiving Party; (ii) shall be disclosed to only those persons who have a need for it in connection with the provision of services required to fulfill this Agreement and shall be used by those persons only for such purposes; and (iii) may be used for other purposes only upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to in advance of such use in writing by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a Receiving Party shall be entitled to disclose or provide Proprietary Information as required by any governmental authority or applicable law, upon advice of counsel, only in accordance with Section 17.5.2 of this Agreement.

- 17.5.2 If any Receiving Party is required by any governmental authority or by applicable law to disclose any Proprietary Information, then such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible and prior to such disclosure. The Disclosing Party may then seek appropriate protective relief from all or part of such requirement. The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief which such Disclosing Party chooses to obtain.
- 17.5.3 In the event of the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, each Party shall return to the other Party or destroy all Proprietary Information and other documents, work papers and other material (including all copies thereof) obtained from the other Party in connection with this Agreement and shall use all reasonable efforts, including instructing its employees and others who have had access to such information, to keep confidential and not to use any such information, unless such information is now, or is hereafter disclosed, through no act, omission or fault of such Party, in any manner making it available to the general public.
- 17.6 Governing Law. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction (primary or otherwise) of the FCC, the exclusive jurisdiction and remedy for all such claims shall be as provided for by the FCC and the Act. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction (primary or otherwise) of the Commission, the exclusive jurisdiction for all such claims shall be with the Commission, and the exclusive remedy for such claims shall be as provided for by such Commission. In all other respects, this Agreement shall be governed by the domestic laws of the State of Florida without reference to conflict of law provisions.

The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be subject to any and all applicable laws, rules, regulations or guidelines that subsequently may be adopted by any federal, state, or local government authority. Any modifications to this Agreement occasioned by such change shall be effected through good faith negotiations.

17.7 <u>Taxes</u>. Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the

providing Party when such providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation by the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to timely provide such sale for resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party.

- 17.8 <u>Assignment</u>. This Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties and shall continue to be binding upon all such entities regardless of any subsequent change in their ownership. Except as provided in this paragraph, neither Party may assign or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a third party without the prior written consent of the other Party which consent will not be unreasonably withheld; provided that either Party may assign this Agreement to a corporate Affiliate or an entity under its common control or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void ab initio. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.
- 17.9 <u>Non-Waiver</u>. Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege.

17.10 Notices.

17.10.1 Notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall either be: (i) delivered personally; (ii) delivered by express delivery service; (iii) mailed, certified mail, return receipt requested to the following addresses of the Parties:

To:VZW	To: NEFCOM

Verizon Wireless	Richard Bolduc
One Verizon Place	Manager of Revenue Development and
Alpharetta, GA 30004	Pricing
Attn: Director – Wireline Interconnection	505 Plaza Circle, Suite 200
	Orange Park, FL 32073
With a copy to:	With a copy to:
Verizon Wireless	Deborah Nobles
1300 I Street, NW Suite 400	Vice President of Regulatory Affairs
Washington, DC 20005	505 Plaza Circle, Suite 200
Attn: Regulatory Counsel, Interconnection	Orange Park, FL 32073

Or to such other address as either Party shall designate by proper notice. Notices will be deemed given as of the earlier of: (i) the date of actual receipt; (ii) the next business day when notice is sent via express mail or personal delivery; (iii) three (3) days after mailing in the case of certified U.S. mail.

17.10.2 In order to facilitate trouble reporting and to coordinate the repair of Interconnection Facilities, trunks, and other interconnection arrangements provided by the Parties under this Agreement, each Party has established contact(s) available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, at telephone numbers to be provided by the Parties. Each Party shall call the other at these respective telephone numbers to report trouble with connection facilities, trunks, and other interconnection arrangements, to inquire as to the status of trouble ticket numbers in progress, and to escalate trouble resolution.

24 Hour Network Management Contact:

For NEFCOM:

NOC Contact Number: 877-838-5695

For VZW:

NOC Contact Number: 800-264-6620

Before either party reports a trouble condition, it must first use its reasonable efforts to isolate the trouble to the other Party's facilities, service, and arrangements. Each Party will advise the other of any critical nature of the inoperative facilities, service, and arrangements and any need for expedited clearance of trouble. In cases where a Party has indicated the essential or critical need for restoration of the facilities, services or arrangements, the other party shall use its best efforts to expedite the clearance of trouble.

- 17.11 <u>Publicity and Use of Trademarks or Service Marks</u>. Neither Party nor its subcontractors or agents shall use the other Party's trademarks, service marks, logos or other proprietary trade dress in any advertising, press releases, publicity matters or other promotional materials without such Party's prior written consent.
- 17.12 <u>Joint Work Product</u>. This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms. In the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.
- 17.13 No Third Party Beneficiaries; Disclaimer of Agency. This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any third-party beneficiary rights hereunder. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party; nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability

or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against, in the name of, or on behalf of the other Party, unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

- 17.14 <u>No License</u>. No license under patents, copyrights, or any other intellectual property right (other than the limited license to use consistent with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Agreement) is granted by either Party, or shall be implied or arise by estoppel with respect to any transactions contemplated under this Agreement.
- 17.15 <u>Technology Upgrades</u>. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit either Parties' ability to upgrade its network through the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise, provided it is to industry standards, and that the Party initiating the upgrade shall provide the other Party written notice at least ninety (90) days prior to the incorporation of any such upgrade in its network which will materially impact the other Party's service. Each Party shall be solely responsible for the cost and effort of accommodating such changes in its own network.
- 17.16 <u>Foreign Based Services</u>. NEFCOM represents, warrants, and covenants that no service performed by NEFCOM pursuant to this Agreement shall be provided, directed, controlled, supervised, or managed, and no data or VZW customer communication (voice or data) relating to any such service shall be stored or transmitted, at, in, or through, a site located outside of the United States without the advance written consent of VZW.
- 17.17 Entire Agreement. The terms contained in this Agreement and any Schedules, Exhibits, tariffs and other documents or instruments referred to herein are hereby incorporated into this Agreement by reference as if set forth fully herein, and constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written. Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications. This Agreement may only be modified by a writing signed by an authorized representative of each Party.

18.0 **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Except as provided under Section 252 of the Act with respect to the approval of this Agreement by the Commission, the Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order or an injunction related to the purposes of this Agreement, or suit to compel compliance with this dispute resolution process, the Parties agree to use the following dispute resolution procedures with respect to any controversy or claim

arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.

- Informal Resolution of Disputes. At the written request of a Party, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative, empowered to resolve such dispute, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The Parties intend that these negotiations be conducted by non-lawyer, business representatives. The location, format, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions shall be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and correspondence among the representatives for purposes of these negotiations shall be treated as Confidential Information developed for purposes of settlement, exempt from discovery, and shall not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of all Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and may, if otherwise discoverable, be discovered or otherwise admissible, be admitted in evidence, in the arbitration or lawsuit.
- 18.2 <u>Formal Dispute Resolution</u>. If negotiations fail to produce an agreeable resolution within ninety (90) days, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanisms; provided, that upon mutual agreement of the Parties such disputes may also be submitted to binding arbitration. In the case of arbitration, each Party shall bear its own costs. The Parties shall equally split the fees of any mutually agreed upon arbitration procedure and the associated arbitrator.
- 18.3 <u>Continuous Service</u>. The Parties shall continue providing services to each other during the pendency of any dispute resolution procedure, and the Parties shall continue to perform their payment obligations (including making payments in accordance with Section 5) in accordance with this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the dates listed below.

Communications LP d/b/a Verizon Wireless	Inc.
1001	
ву:	By: Kirkul Bolde
Name: Hans Leutenegger	Name:_Richard Bolduc
Title: _Area Vice President, Network Date:	Title: _Mgr Revenue Development and Pricing_ Date:

25

Attachment A

1.0 <u>Reciprocal Compensation</u>

\$0.012 per minute of use for traffic exchanged via direct interconnection
\$0.015 per minute of use for traffic exchanged via indirect interconnection

2.0 Percent Inter-MTA

0%

3.0 <u>Traffic Factor</u>

Landline-to-Wireless 35%

Wireless-to-Landline 65%

Attachment B

Reserved For Future Use