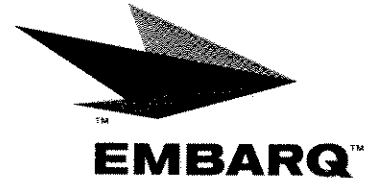


Voice | Data | Internet | Wireless | Entertainment



Embarq Corporation  
Mailstop: NCWKFR0313  
14111 Capital Boulevard  
Wake Forest, NC 27587-5900  
EMBARQ.com

April 12, 2007

Chairman Sara Kyle  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

filed electronically in docket office on 04/10/07

Docket No. 07-00089

Re: Petition for Approval of Interconnection, Collocation and Resale Agreement  
between United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq and NuVox  
Communications, Inc.

Dear Chairman Kyle:

Enclosed are an original and four (4) copies of the Petition of United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq ("Embarq") for approval of an Interconnection, Collocation and Resale Agreement between Embarq and NuVox. Embarq has already filed this petition electronically and this letter is the required follow-up to that filing. Embarq is not aware of any provisions in this interconnection agreement that are inconsistent with any previous Authority decisions in proceedings to which United was a party.

Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$50.00 for the filing fees for both companies. Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

  
Edward Phillips

HEP:sm

Enclosures

cc: NuVox Communications, Inc.  
Laura Sykora (electronic copy)  
Scott Stringer (electronic copy)

Edward Phillips  
ATTORNEY  
Voice: (919) 554-7870  
Fax: (919) 554-7913  
edward.phillips@EMBARQ.com

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

In Re:

Petition for Approval of an Interconnection,  
Collocation and Resale Agreement Negotiated  
Between United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.  
d/b/a Embarq and NuVox Communications, Inc.

---

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF NEGOTIATED INTERCONNECTION,  
COLLOCATION AND RESALE AGREEMENT

---

United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq ("Embarq") respectfully petitions the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority") for approval of an interconnection agreement dated March 20, 2007 (the "Agreement") negotiated between United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. and NuVox Communications, Inc. ("NuVox") under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"). In support of its petition, Embarq states the following:

1. Embarq and NuVox have successfully negotiated the adoption of the Agreement which provides for local interconnection, collocation and resale and purchase of unbundled network elements by NuVox for the purpose of NuVox's use or resale to its end users.
2. Under 47 USC § 252(e) Embarq submits the Agreement to the Authority for its review and approval.

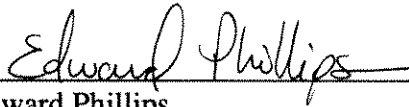
3. 47 USC § 252(e) provides that the Authority may either approve or reject the Agreement negotiated between the parties within 90 days of its submission for approval. The Act further provides that the Authority may only reject a negotiated agreement if it finds the agreement or any portion of the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement, or that the implementation of the agreement or any portion of the agreement is inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

4. Embarq affirms that the Agreement meets the standards for approval.

5. Further, as required by 47 USC § 252(i) and 47 CFR 51.809, Embarq will make the terms and conditions of the entire Agreement available to any other requesting carrier.

WHEREFORE, United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq respectfully requests that the Tennessee Regulatory Authority approve the Agreement negotiated by the parties.

Respectfully submitted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2007.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward Phillips  
Attorney  
United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq  
Mailstop: NCWKFR0313  
14111 Capital Boulevard  
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587-5900  
Telephone: 919-554-7870  
Fax: 919-554-7913  
Email: edward.phillips@embarq.com  
Tennessee B.P.R. No. 016850



**INTERCONNECTION, COLLOCATION AND RESALE AGREEMENT  
FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE**

*March 20, 2007*

*NuVox Communications  
and*

*United Telephone – Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq*

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## **INTERCONNECTION, COLLOCATION AND RESALE AGREEMENT**

This Interconnection, Collocation and Resale Agreement (the “Agreement”), dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007, is entered into by and between NuVox Communications (“NuVox”) and United Telephone – Southeast, Inc. d/b/a Embarq (“Embarq”), a Virginia corporation, a corporation, to establish the rates, terms and conditions for local interconnection, collocation, local resale, and purchase of unbundled Network Elements (individually referred to as the “service” or collectively as the “services”).

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to interconnect their local exchange networks for the purposes of transmission and termination of calls, so that customers of each can receive calls that originate on the other’s network and place calls that terminate on the other’s network, and for NuVox’s use in the provision of exchange access (“Local Interconnection”); and

WHEREAS, NuVox wishes to purchase Telecommunications Services for resale to others, and Embarq is willing to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, NuVox wishes to purchase unbundled Network Elements, ancillary services and functions and additional features (“Network Elements”) for the provision of Telecommunications Services to others, and Embarq is willing to provide unbundled Network Elements and services; and

WHEREAS, the Parties intend the rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement, and their performance of obligations thereunder, to comply with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the “Act”), the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), and the orders, rules and regulations of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to replace any and all other prior agreements, written and oral, applicable to the state of Tennessee.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement, NuVox and Embarq hereby mutually agree as follows:

## PART A - DEFINITIONS

### 1. DEFINED TERMS

- 1.1. Capitalized terms defined in this Section shall have the meanings as set forth in this Agreement. Other terms used but not defined will have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act or in the Rules and Regulations of the FCC or the Commission. The Parties acknowledge that other terms appear in this Agreement, which are not defined or ascribed as stated above. The Parties agree that any such terms shall be construed in accordance with their customary usage in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.
- 1.2. **“911 Service”** means a universal telephone number which gives the public direct access to the Public Safety Answering Point (“PSAP”). Basic 911 service collects 911 calls from one or more local exchange switches that serve a geographic area. The calls are then sent to the correct authority designated to receive such calls.
- 1.3. **“Access Services”** refers to interstate and intrastate switched access and private line transport services.
- 1.4. **“Act”** means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 1.5. **“Affiliate”** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.6. **“Augment”** refers to a modification (increase/addition or decrease/reduction) to an existing Collocation Arrangement. Examples include changes to the space, cage, power, cross-connect cabling, conduit, vault, riser, or cabling associated with the Collocation Arrangement.
- 1.7. **“Automated Message Accounting” (“AMA”)** is the structure inherent in switch technology that initially records telecommunication message information. AMA format is contained in the Automated Message Accounting document, published by Telcordia as GR-1100-CORE which defines the industry standard for message recording.
- 1.8. **“Automatic Location Identification” (“ALI”)** means a feature that provides the caller’s telephone number, address and the names of the Emergency Response agencies that are responsible for that address.

- 1.9. **“Automatic Location Identification/Data Management System (“ALI/DMS”)** means the emergency service (“E911/911”) database containing subscriber location information (including name, address, telephone number, and sometimes special information from the local service provider) used to determine to which Public Safety Answering Point (“PSAP”) to route the call.
- 1.10. **“Automatic Number Identification” (“ANI”)** is a feature that identifies and displays the number of a telephone line that originates a call.
- 1.11. **“Automatic Route Selection” (“ARS”)** is a service feature associated with a specific grouping of lines that provides for automatic selection of the least expensive or most appropriate transmission facility for each call based on criteria programmed into the system.
- 1.12. **“ATU - C”** refers to an ADSL Transmission Unit - Central Office.
- 1.13. **“Busy Line Verify/Busy Line Verify Interrupt” (“BLV/BLVI”)** means an operator call in which the caller inquires as to the busy status of, or requests an interruption of a call on another subscriber’s telephone line.
- 1.14. **“Business Day(s)”** means the days of the week excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and all Embarq holidays.
- 1.15. **“Business Line”** is a Embarq-owned switched access line used to serve a business customer, whether by Embarq or by a competitive LEC that leases the line from Embarq. The number of Business Lines in a Wire Center shall equal the sum of all Embarq business switched access lines, plus the sum of all UNE loops connected to that Wire Center, including UNE loops provisioned in combination with other unbundled elements. Among these requirements, Business Line tallies (1) shall include only those access lines connecting end-user customers with Embarq end-offices for switched services, (2) shall not include non-switched special access lines, (3) shall account for ISDN and other digital access lines by counting each 64 kbps-equivalent as one line. For example, a DS1 line corresponds to 24 64 kbps-equivalents, and therefore to 24 “Business Lines.”
- 1.16. **“Cable Vault”** shall mean a location in a Premises where facilities enter the Premises from the Outside Cable Duct and access the Inner Duct for distribution within the Premises.

- 1.17. **“Carrier Access Billing System”** (“CABS”) is the system which is defined in a document prepared under the direction of the Billing Committee of the OBF. The CABS document is published by Telcordia in Volumes 1, 1A, 2, 3, 3A, 4 and 5 as Special Reports SR-OPT-001868, SR-OPT-0011869, SR-OPT-001871, SR-OPT-001872, SR-OPT-001873, SR-OPT-001874, and SR-OPT-001875, respectively, and contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of access and other connectivity services. Embarq’s carrier access billing system is its Carrier Access Support System (CASS). CASS mirrors the requirements of CABS.
- 1.18. **“Central Office Building”** or **“Building”** shall mean a structure (not including a controlled environment vault (“CEV”)) housing Embarq network equipment that is under the control of Embarq and for which Embarq has the right to grant access and/or occupation by third parties.
- 1.19. **“Central Office Switches”** - are switching facilities within the public switched telecommunications network, including, but not limited to:
- 1.19.1. **“End Office Switches”** (“EOs”) are switches from which end user Telephone Exchange Services are directly connected and offered.
  - 1.19.2. **“Tandem Switches”** are switches that are used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among Central Office Switches.
  - 1.19.3. **“Remote Switches”** are switches that are away from their host or control office. All or most of the central control equipment for the remote switch is located at the host or Control Office.
- 1.20. **“Centrex”** means a Telecommunications Service associated with a specific grouping of lines that uses central office switching equipment for call routing to handle direct dialing of calls, and to provide numerous private branch exchange-like features.
- 1.21. **“CLASS/LASS”** (Telcordia Service Mark) refers to service features that utilize the capability to forward a calling party’s number between end offices as part of call setup. Features include Automatic Callback, Automatic Recall, Caller ID, Call Trace, and Distinctive Ringing.
- 1.22. **“Collocation Arrangement”** refers to a single, specific provision of collocation in a particular Premises, not limited to a cage enclosing NuVox’s equipment within the Premises.

- 1.23. **“Collocation Space”** shall mean an area of space located in a building to be used by NuVox to house telecommunications equipment that is necessary for interconnection or access to UNEs. Additionally, roof or wall space used for wireless interconnection shall be included in the definition where applicable.
- 1.24. **“Commingle”** means the act of Commingling.
- 1.25. **“Commingling”** means the connecting, attaching, or otherwise linking of an unbundled Network Element, or a combination of unbundled Network Elements, to one or more facilities or services that NuVox has obtained at wholesale from Embarq, including but not limited to service obtained pursuant to section 251(c) of the Act, or the combining of an unbundled Network Element, or a combination of unbundled Network Elements with one or more such facilities or services.
- 1.26. **“Commission”** means the the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.
- 1.27. **“Common Channel Signaling” (“CCS”)** is a method of digitally transmitting call set-up and network control data over a digital signaling network fully separate from the public switched telephone network that carries the actual call.
- 1.28. **“Common Transport”** provides a local interoffice transmission path between End Office Switches, between End Office Switches and Tandem Switches and between Tandem Switches in Embarq’s network. Common Transport is shared between multiple customers and is required to be switched at the Tandem Switch.
- 1.29. **“Confidential and/or Proprietary Information”** has the meaning set forth in Section 15.
- 1.30. **“Controlled Environment Vault” (“CEV”)** shall mean a below ground room other than a Central Office Building which is controlled by Embarq and which is suitable for collocation of telecommunications equipment under controlled temperature and humidity.
- 1.31. **“Control Office”** is an exchange carrier center or office designated as the Party’s single point of contact for the provisioning and maintenance of its portion of local interconnection arrangements.
- 1.32. **“Copper Loop”** is a stand-alone local loop comprised entirely of copper wire or cable. Copper Loops include two-wire and four-wire analog voice-grade Copper Loops, digital Copper Loops (*e.g.*, DS0s and integrated services digital network

lines), as well as two-wire and four-wire Copper Loops conditioned to transmit the digital signals needed to provide digital subscriber line services, regardless of whether the Copper Loops are in service or held as spares. The Copper Loop includes attached electronics using time division multiplexing technology, but does not include packet switching capabilities.

- 1.33. **“Custom Calling Features”** means a set of Telecommunications Service features available to residential and single-line business customers including call-waiting, call-forwarding and three-party calling.
- 1.34. **“Customer Proprietary Network Information” (“CPNI”)** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.35. **“Database Management System” (“DBMS”)** is a computer process used to store, sort, manipulate and update the data required to provide Selective Routing and ALI.
- 1.36. **“Day”** means calendar days unless otherwise specified.
- 1.37. **“Dedicated Transport”** includes Embarq transmission facilities between Wire Centers or Switches owned by Embarq, or between Wire Centers or Switches owned by Embarq and Switches owned by NuVox, including, but not limited to, DS1-, DS3-, and OCn-capacity level services, as well as dark fiber, dedicated to a particular customer or carrier.
- 1.38. **“Demarcation Point”** is that point on the facility where Embarq’s control of the facility ceases, and the end user customer’s control of the facility begins.
- 1.39. **“Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer” (“DSLAM”)** is equipment that links end-user xDSL connections to a single high-speed packet switch, typically ATM or IP.
- 1.40. **“Directory Assistance Database”** refers to any subscriber record used by Embarq in its provision of live or automated operator-assisted directory assistance including but not limited to 411, 555-1212, NPA-555-1212.
- 1.41. **“Directory Assistance Services”** provides listings to callers. Directory Assistance Services may include the option to complete the call at the caller’s direction.



- 1.42. **“DS1 Loop”** is a digital Local Loop having a total digital signal speed of 1.544 megabytes per second. DS1 Loops include, but are not limited to, two-wire and four-wire Copper Loops capable of providing high-bit rate digital subscriber line services, including T1 services.
- 1.43. **“DS3 Loop”** is a digital Local Loop having a total digital signal speed of 44.736 megabytes per second.
- 1.44. **“DSLAM”** refers to a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer.
- 1.45. **“Duct”** is a single enclosed path to house facilities to provide Telecommunications Services.
- 1.46. **“Effective Date”** is the date referenced in the opening paragraph on page 1 of the Agreement, unless otherwise required by the Commission.
- 1.47. **“Electronic Interface”** means access to operations support systems consisting of preordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair and billing functions.
- 1.48. **“Emergency Response Agency”** is a governmental entity authorized to respond to requests from the public to meet emergencies.
- 1.49. **“Emergency Service Number” (“ESN”)** is a number assigned to the ALI and selective routing databases for all subscriber telephone numbers. The ESN designates a unique combination of fire, police and emergency medical service response agencies that serve the address location of each in-service telephone number.
- 1.50. **“Enhanced Extended Link” (“EEL”)** for purposes of this Agreement refers to the combination of unbundled Network Elements, specifically NID, Local Loop, multiplexing (MUX) if necessary and Dedicated Transport, in the Embarq Network.
- 1.51. **“Exchange Message Interface System” (“EMI”)** is the Industry standard for exchanging telecommunications message information for billable, non-billable, sample settlement and study records. The EMI is published by ATIS (Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions).
- 1.52. **“End Date”** is the date this Agreement terminates as referenced in **Error! Reference source not found..**

- 1.53. **“Enhanced 911 Service” (“E911”)** means a telephone communication service which will automatically route a call dialed “9-1-1” to a designated public safety answering point (PSAP) attendant and will provide to the attendant the calling party’s telephone number and, when possible, the address from which the call is being placed and the Emergency Response agencies responsible for the location from which the call was dialed.
- 1.54. **“FCC”** means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 1.55. **“Fiber-based Collocator”** means any carrier, unaffiliated with Embarq, that maintains a Collocation Arrangement in Embarq’s wire center, with active electrical power supply, and operates a fiber-optic cable or comparable transmission facility that (1) terminates at a Collocation Arrangement within the Wire Center; (2) leaves Embarq’s Wire Center premises; and (3) is owned by a party other than Embarq or any affiliate of Embarq, except as set forth in this definition. Dark fiber obtained from Embarq on an indefeasible right of use basis shall be treated as non-Embarq fiber-optic cable. Two or more Affiliated Fiber-based Collocators in a single Wire Center shall collectively be counted as a single Fiber-based Collocator. For purposes of this definition, the term Affiliate is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(1) and any relevant interpretation in the Act.
- 1.56. **“Fiber-to-the-curb Loop” (“FTTC Loop”)** means a Local Loop consisting of fiber optic cable connecting to a copper distribution plant that is not more than 500 feet from the customer’s premises or, in the case of predominantly residential MDUs, not more than 500 feet from the MDU’s MPOE. The fiber optic cable in a fiber-to-the-curb loop must connect to a copper distribution plant at a serving area interface from which every other copper distribution subloop also is not more than 500 feet from the respective customer’s premises.
- 1.57. **“Fiber-to-the-home Loop” (“FTTH Loop”)** means a Local Loop consisting entirely of fiber optic cable, whether dark or lit, and serving an end-user’s customer premises or, in the case of predominantly residential multiple dwelling units (“MDUs”), a fiber optic cable, whether dark or lit, that extends to the multiunit premises’ minimum point of entry (“MPOE”).
- 1.58. **“Grandfathered Service”** means service which is no longer available for new customers and is limited to the current customer at their current locations with

certain provisioning limitations, including but not limited to upgrade denials, feature adds/changes and responsible/billing party.

- 1.59. **“High Frequency Portion of the local Loop” (“HFPL”)** is defined as the frequency range above the voice band on a copper loop facility that is being used to carry analog circuit-switched voice band transmissions provided by Embarq to the end-user customer.
- 1.60. **“Hybrid Loop”** means a Local Loop comprised of both fiber optic cable, usually in the feeder plant, and copper wire or cable usually in the distribution plant.
- 1.61. **“Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier” (“ILEC”)** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.62. **“Indirect Traffic”** means traffic which is originated by one Party and terminated to the other Party in which a third party Telecommunications Carrier provides the intermediary transiting service. Indirect traffic does not require a physical direct trunk group between the Parties.
- 1.63. **“Information Services”** shall have the meaning defined in 47 CFR 51.5.
- 1.64. **“Interexchange Carrier” (“IXC”)** means a provider of interexchange Telecommunications Services.
- 1.65. **“Interexchange Service”** shall mean telecommunications service between stations in different exchange areas.
- 1.66. **“ISP-Bound Traffic,”** for the purposes of this Agreement, is defined as traffic that is transmitted to an Internet Service Provider (“ISP”) consistent with the ISP Remand Order (FCC 01-131), 16 F.C.C. Rcd. 9151 (2001).
- 1.67. **“Inner Duct”** or **“Conduit”** shall mean any passage or opening in, on, under, over or through the Embarq Central Office Building cable or conduit systems.
- 1.68. **“Line Information Data Base” (“LIDB”)** means a Service Control Point (SCP) database that provides for such functions as calling card validation for telephone line number cards issued by Embarq and other entities and validation for collect and billed-to-third services.
- 1.69. **“Live Load Capacity”** as it relates to NuVox's Collocation Space refers to the structural strength of the floor to support the weight of NuVox's property and equipment installed in the collocated space.

- 1.70. **“Local Loop or Loop”** refers to a transmission facility between the main distribution frame [cross-connect], or its equivalent, in a Embarq Central Office or wire center, and up to the demarcation point at a customer’s premises, to which NuVox is granted exclusive use. This element includes features, functions and capabilities of such transmission facility, including the NID. It also includes all electronics, optronics and intermediate devices (including repeaters and load coils) used to establish the transmission path to the customer premises as well as inside wire owned or controlled by Embarq that is part of the transmission path. Local loops include Copper Loops, Hybrid Loops, DS1 loops, DS3 loops, FTTC Loops and FTTH Loops.
- 1.71. **“Local Number Portability”** (“LNP”) means the ability of users of Telecommunications Services to retain, at the same location, existing telecommunications numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switching from one Telecommunications Carrier to another.
- 1.72. **“Local Service Request”** (“LSR”) means an industry standard form or a mutually agreed upon change thereof, used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect local services.
- 1.73. **“Local Traffic”** for the purposes of this Agreement the Parties shall agree that “Local Traffic” means traffic (excluding Commercial Mobile Radio Service “CMRS” traffic) that is originated and terminated within Embarq’s local calling area, or mandatory extended area service (EAS) area, as defined by the Commission or, if not defined by the Commission, then as defined in existing Embarq Tariffs. For this purpose, Local Traffic does not include any ISP-Bound Traffic.
- 1.74. **“Mobile Wireless Service”** means any mobile wireless telecommunications service, including any commercial mobile radio service (CMRS). CMRS includes paging, air-ground radiotelephone service and offshore radiotelephone service, as well as mobile telephony services, such as the voice offerings of carriers using cellular radiotelephone, broadband PCS and SMR licenses.
- 1.75. **“Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing”** (“MECAB”) refers to the document prepared by the Billing Committee of the ATIS Ordering and Billing Forum (“OBF”). The MECAB document contains the recommended guidelines

for the billing of an access service provided to a customer by two or more providers or by one provider in two or more states within a single LATA.

- 1.76. **“Multiple Exchange Carrier Ordering And Design” (“MECOD”)** refers to the guidelines for Access Services - Industry Support Interface, a document developed by the Ordering/Provisioning Committee under the auspices of the OBF, which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee (“CLC”) of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (“ATIS”). The MECOD document, published by Telcordia as Special Report SR STS-002643, establishes recommended guidelines for processing orders for Access Service which is to be provided by two or more Telecommunications Carriers.
- 1.77. **“National Emergency Number Association” (“NENA”)** is an association with a mission to foster the technological advancement, availability and implementation of 911 nationwide.
- 1.78. **“Network Element”** is as defined in the Act.
- 1.79. **“North American Numbering Plan” (“NANP”)** means the plan for the allocation of unique 10-digit directory numbers consisting of a three-digit area code, a three-digit office code, and a four-digit line number. The plan also extends to format variations, prefixes, and special code applications.
- 1.80. **“Numbering Plan Area” (“NPA”)** (sometimes referred to as an area code) is the three-digit indicator which is designated by the first three digits of each 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NPA contains 800 possible NXX Codes. 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 (SAC Code)” is typically associated with a specialized Telecommunications Service which may be provided across multiple geographic NPA areas; 500, 800, 900, 700, and 888 are examples of Non-Geographic NPAs.
- 1.81. **“NXX,” “NXX Code,” “COC,” “Central Office Code,” or “CO Code”** is the three-digit switch entity indicator which is defined by the fourth, fifth and sixth digits of a 10-digit telephone number within NANP.

- 1.82. **“OBF”** means the Ordering and Billing Forum, which functions under the auspices of the CLC of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS).
- 1.83. **“Operator Services”** provides for:
- 1.83.1. operator handling for call completion (e.g., collect calls);
  - 1.83.2. operator or automated assistance for billing after the subscriber has dialed the called number (e.g., credit card calls); and
  - 1.83.3. special services (e.g., BLV/BLI, Emergency Agency Call).
- 1.84. **“Outside Cable Duct”** shall mean any space located outside the Central Office Building and owned by or under the control of Embarq through which Embarq runs its cable, conduit or other associated facilities.
- 1.85. **“Parity”** means, subject to the availability, development and implementation of necessary industry standard Electronic Interfaces, the provision by Embarq of services, Network Elements, functionality or telephone numbering resources under this Agreement to NuVox, including provisioning and repair, at least equal in quality to those offered to Embarq, its Affiliates or any other entity that obtains such services, Network Elements, functionality or telephone numbering resources. Until the implementation of necessary Electronic Interfaces, Embarq shall provide such services, Network Elements, functionality or telephone numbering resources on a non-discriminatory basis to NuVox as it provides to its Affiliates or any other entity that obtains such services, Network Elements, functionality or telephone numbering resources.
- 1.86. **“P.01 Transmission Grade Of Service” (“GOS”)** means a trunk facility provisioning standard with the statistical probability of no more than one call in 100 blocked on initial attempt during the average busy hour.
- 1.87. **“Parties”** means, jointly, Embarq and NuVox, and no other entity, Affiliate, subsidiary or assign.
- 1.88. **“Party”** means either Embarq or NuVox, and no other entity, Affiliate, subsidiary or assign.
- 1.89. **“Percent Local Usage” (“PLU”)** is a calculation which represents the ratio of the local minutes to the sum of local and intraLATA toll minutes between exchange

carriers sent over Local Interconnection Trunks. Directory assistance, BLV/BLVI, 900, and 976 transiting calls from other exchange carriers and switched access calls are not included in the calculation of PLU.

1.90. **“Physical Collocation”** is as defined in 47 CFR 51.5.

1.91. **“Point of Interconnection” (“POI”)** is the physical point that establishes the technical interface, the test point, and the operational responsibility hand-off between NuVox and Embarq for the local interconnection of their networks.

1.92. **“Premises”** is as defined in 47 C.F.R. 51.5.

1.93. **“Pre-Order Loop Qualification” (“Loop Qualification”)** is an OSS function that includes supplying loop qualification information to NuVoxs as part of the Pre-ordering Process. Examples of the type of information provided are:

1.93.1. Composition of the loop material, i.e. fiber optics, copper;

1.93.2. Existence, location and type of any electronic or other equipment on the loop, including but not limited to:

1.93.2.1. Digital Loop Carrier (“DLC”) or other remote concentration devices;

1.93.2.2. Feeder/distribution interfaces;

1.93.2.3. Bridge taps;

1.93.2.4. Load coils;

1.93.2.5. Pair gain devices; or

1.93.2.6. Disturbers in the same or adjacent binders.

1.93.3. Loop length which is an indication of the approximate loop length, based on a 26-gauge equivalent and is calculated on the basis of Distribution Area distance from the central office;

1.93.4. Wire gauge or gauges; and

1.93.5. Electrical parameters.

1.94. **“Proprietary Information”** shall have the same meaning as Confidential Information.

- 1.95. **“Rate Center”** means the geographic point and corresponding geographic area which are associated with one or more particular NPA-NXX codes which have been assigned to Embarq or NuVox for its provision of basic exchange Telecommunications Services. The “rate center point” is the finite geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate, which is used to measure distance-sensitive end user traffic to/from the particular NPA-NXX designations associated with the specific Rate Center. The “rate center area” is the exclusive geographic area identified as the area within which Embarq or NuVox will provide Basic Exchange Telecommunications Services bearing the particular NPA-NXX designations associated with the specific Rate Center. The Rate Center point must be located within the Rate Center area.
- 1.96. **“Routing Point”** means a location which Embarq or NuVox has designated on its own network as the homing (routing) point for traffic inbound to basic exchange Services provided by Embarq or NuVox which bear a certain NPA-NXX designation. The Routing Point is employed to calculate mileage measurements for the distance-sensitive transport element charges of Switched Access Services. Pursuant to Telcordia Practice BR 795-100-100, the Routing Point may be an “End Office” location, or a “LEC Consortium Point of Interconnection.” Pursuant to that same Telcordia Practice, examples of the latter shall be designated by a common language location identifier (CLLI) code with (x)MD or X(x) in positions 9, 10, 11, where (x) may be any alphanumeric A-Z or 0-9. The above referenced Telcordia document refers to the Routing Point as the Rating Point. The Rating Point/Routing Point need not be the same as the Rate Center Point, nor must it be located within the Rate Center Area, but must be in the same LATA as the NPA-NXX.
- 1.97. **“Small Exchange Carrier Access Billing” (“SECAB”)** means the document prepared by the Billing Committee of the OBF. The SECAB document, published by ATIS as Special Report SR OPT-001856, contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of access and other connectivity services.
- 1.98. **“Selective Routing”** is a service which automatically routes an E911 call to the PSAP that has jurisdictional responsibility for the service address of the telephone that dialed 911, irrespective of telephone company exchange or Wire Center boundaries.



- 1.99. **“Signaling Transfer Point” (“STP”)** means a signaling point that performs message routing functions and provides information for the routing of messages between signaling points within or between CCIS networks. A STP transmits, receives and processes CCIS messages.
- 1.100. **“Splitter”** is a device that divides the data and voice signals concurrently moving across the loop, directing the voice traffic through copper tie cables to the switch and the data traffic through another pair of copper tie cables to multiplexing equipment for delivery to the packet-switched network. The Splitter may be directly integrated into the DSLAM equipment or may be externally mounted.
- 1.101. **“Street Index Guide” (“SIG”)** is a database defining the geographic area of an E911 Service. It includes an alphabetical list of the street names, high-low house number ranges, community names, and Emergency Service Numbers provided by the counties or their agents to Embarq.
- 1.102. **“Switch”** means a Central Office Switch as defined in this Part A.
- 1.103. **“Synchronous Optical Network” (“SONET”)** is an optical interface standard that allows interworking of transmission products from multiple vendors (i.e., mid-span meets). The base rate is 51.84 MHps (OC-1/STS-1 and higher rates are direct multiples of the base rate up to 1.22 GHps).
- 1.104. **“Tandem Office Switches,” “Tandem,” and “Tandem Switching”** describe Class 4 switches which are used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among End Office Switches and other tandems.
- 1.105. **“Tariff”** means a filing made at the state or federal level for the provision of a Telecommunications Service by a Telecommunications Carrier that provides for the terms, conditions and pricing of that service. Such filing may be required or voluntary and may or may not be specifically approved by the Commission or FCC.
- 1.106. **“Technically Feasible”** refers solely to technical or operational concerns, rather than economic, space, or site considerations.
- 1.107. **“Tier 1”** Wire Centers are those Embarq Wire Centers that contain at least four Fiber-based Collocators, at least 38,000 Business Lines, or both. Tier 1 Wire Centers also are those Embarq tandem switching locations that have no line-side switching facilities, but nevertheless serve as a point of traffic aggregation

accessible by competitive LECs. Once a Wire Center is determined to be a Tier 1 Wire Center, that Wire Center is not subject to later reclassification as a Tier 2 or Tier 3 Wire Center.

- 1.108. “**Tier 2**” Wire Centers are those Embarq Wire Centers that are not Tier 1 Wire Centers but contain at least 3 Fiber-based Collocators, at least 24,000 Business Lines, or both. Once a Wire Center is determined to be a Tier 2 Wire Center, that Wire Center is not subject to later reclassification as a Tier 3 Wire Center.
- 1.109. “**Tier 3**” Wire Centers are those Embarq Wire Centers that are not Tier 1 or Tier 2 Wire Centers.
- 1.110. “**Telecommunications**” is as defined in the Act.
- 1.111. “**Telecommunications Carrier**” is as defined in the Act.
- 1.112. “**Telecommunications Service**” is as defined in the Act.
- 1.113. “**Transit Service**” means the delivery of Transit Traffic.
- 1.114. “**Transit Traffic**” means Local Traffic or ISP-Bound Traffic that originated on one Party’s network, transited through the other Party’s network, and terminated to a third party Telecommunications Carrier’s network or that is originated on a third party Telecommunications Carrier’s network, transited through a Party’s network, and terminated to the other Party’s network.
- 1.115. “**Virtual Collocation**” is as defined in 47 C.F.R. 51.5.
- 1.116. “**Wholesale Service**” means Telecommunication Services that Embarq provides at retail to subscribers who are not Telecommunications Carriers as set forth in 47 USC § 251(c)(4) which Embarq provides to resellers at a wholesale rate.
- 1.117. “**Wire center**” is the location of an incumbent LEC local switching facility containing one or more central offices, as defined in part 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Wire Center boundaries define the area in which all customers served by a given Wire Center are located.
- 1.118. “**xDSL**” refers to a generic term for a series of high speed transmission protocols, equipment, and services designed to operate over copper wire. This series includes but is not limited to ADSL, VDSL, SDSL, and others.

## **PART B – GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **2. SCOPE OF THIS AGREEMENT**

2.1. This Agreement, including Parts A through L, Tables One and Two and exhibits, specifies the rights and obligations of each Party with respect to the establishment, purchase, and sale of Local Interconnection, Collocation, resale of Telecommunications Services and Unbundled Network Elements. Certain terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings defined in PART A -- DEFINITIONS, or as otherwise elsewhere defined throughout this Agreement. Other terms used but not defined in this Agreement will have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act, in the FCC's, and in the Commission's Rules and Regulations. PART B sets forth the general terms and conditions governing this Agreement. The remaining Parts set forth, among other things, descriptions of the services, pricing, technical and business requirements, and physical and network security requirements.

### **3. NETWORK CHANGES**

3.1. Embarq shall provide notice of network changes and upgrades in accordance with §§ 51.325 through 51.335 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Embarq may discontinue any interconnection arrangement, Telecommunications Service, or Network Element provided or required hereunder due to network changes or upgrades after providing NuVox notice as required by this Section. Embarq agrees to cooperate with NuVox and/or the appropriate regulatory body in any transition resulting from such discontinuation of service and to minimize the impact to customers, which may result from such discontinuance of service.

### **4. REGULATORY APPROVALS**

4.1. This Agreement, and any amendment or modification hereof, will be submitted to the Commission for approval in accordance with § 252 of the Act within thirty (30) Days after obtaining the last required Agreement signature. Embarq and NuVox shall use their best efforts to obtain approval of this Agreement by any regulatory body having jurisdiction over this Agreement. In the event any governmental authority or agency rejects any provision hereof, the Parties shall

negotiate promptly and in good faith such revisions as may reasonably be required to achieve approval.

- 4.2. The Parties acknowledge that the respective rights and obligations of each Party as set forth in this Agreement are based on the texts of the Act and the orders, rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the FCC and the Commission as of the Effective Date ("Applicable Rules"). The failure to reference explicitly any specific Applicable Rule shall not be taken as evidence that the Parties do not intend to be bound by any such specific Applicable Rule. In the event of any amendment of 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 court, 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 promptly shall be amended accordingly after the date of the notice to reflect the pricing, terms and conditions of each such Amended Rules relating to any of the provisions in this Agreement.
- 4.3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary Section 4.2 hereof shall control. Any rates, terms or conditions thus developed or modified shall be substituted in place of those previously in effect and shall be effective under this Agreement as of the effective date established by the Amended Rules, whether such action was commenced before or after the Effective Date of this Agreement. Should the Parties be unable to reach agreement with respect to the applicability of such order or the resulting appropriate modifications to this Agreement, either party may invoke the Dispute Resolution provisions of this Agreement, it being the intent of the parties that this Agreement shall be brought into conformity with the then current obligations under the Act as determined by the Amended Rules. Embarq may charge rates to NuVox under this Agreement that are approved by the Commission in a generic cost proceeding, whether such action was commenced before or after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as of the effective date of the Commission decision.

- 4.4. If either Party enters into an agreement (“the Other Agreement”) approved by the Commission pursuant to section 252 of the Act which provides for provision of an interconnection arrangement, service, or network element covered in this Agreement to another requesting Telecommunications carrier, including itself or its affiliate, such Party shall make available to the other Party such interconnection, service, or network element upon the same terms and conditions as those provided in the Other Agreement pursuant to section 252(i) of the Act.

## **5. TERM AND TERMINATION**

- 5.1. This Agreement shall be deemed effective upon the Effective Date first stated above, and continue for a period of three years until March 19, 2010 (“End Date”), unless earlier terminated in accordance with this Section 5, provided however that if NuVox has any outstanding undisputed past due obligations to Embarq or any of Embarq’s affiliates. This agreement shall become binding upon execution by the Parties. If NuVox is not already interconnected with Embarq, no order or request of services under this Agreement shall be processed before NuVox has established a customer account with Embarq and has completed the Implementation Plan described in this Agreement.
- 5.2. In the event of either Party’s material breach of any of the terms or conditions hereof, including the failure to make any undisputed payment when due, the non-defaulting Party may immediately terminate this Agreement in whole or in part if the non-defaulting Party so advises the defaulting Party in writing of the event of the alleged default and the defaulting Party does not remedy the alleged default within sixty (60) Days after written notice thereof. The non-defaulting Party may pursue all available legal and equitable remedies for such breach.
- 5.3. Embarq may terminate this Agreement upon ten (10) Days notice if NuVox is not exchanging traffic with Embarq or has not submitted orders pursuant to this Agreement within one-hundred-eighty (180) Days of the Effective Date. In addition, Embarq reserves the right to terminate this Agreement immediately upon notice from NuVox that it has ceased doing business in this state. In addition to notice from NuVox, Embarq may utilize any publicly available information in concluding that NuVox is no longer doing business in this state, and immediately terminate this Agreement.

- 5.4. Termination of this Agreement for any cause shall not release either Party from any liability which at the time of termination has already accrued to the other Party or which thereafter may accrue in respect to any act or omission prior to termination or from any obligation which is expressly stated in this Agreement to survive termination.
- 5.5. NuVox may terminate this Agreement in whole or part at any time for any reason upon sixty (60) days prior written notice, except with respect to termination of any particular service(s), in which case, upon thirty (30) days prior written notice. NuVox's sole liability shall be payment of amounts due for services provided up to the date of termination.
- 5.6. Notwithstanding the above, should Embarq sell or trade substantially all the assets in an exchange or group of exchanges that Embarq uses to provide Telecommunications Services, then Embarq may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part as to that particular exchange or group of exchanges upon sixty (60) Days prior written notice.
- 5.7. In the event of termination of this Agreement pursuant to Sections 5.2, 5.3, and 5.5, Embarq and NuVox shall cooperate in good faith to effect an orderly transition of service to NuVox customers in accordance with any Applicable Rules.
- 5.8. Notwithstanding any termination hereof, the Parties shall continue to comply with their obligations under the Act to provide interconnection.

## **6. POST EXPIRATION INTERIM SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS**

- 6.1. In the event that this Agreement expires under Section 5.1, and the Parties have not executed a successor agreement at the time of expiration and NuVox has notified Embarq in accordance with Section 6.1 of its intent to commence negotiations, provided the Parties are actually in arbitration or mediation before the Commission or FCC under Section 252 of the Act or the Parties have mutually agreed, in writing, to continue negotiations on the successor agreement, Embarq will continue to provide the types of services pursuant to the rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement which have been ordered by NuVox prior to the End Date, except in the case of termination as a result of the events under Sections 5.2, 5.3, and 5.5 only until the earlier of (i) the Parties execution of a successor

agreement, or (ii) the issuance of an order, whether or not a final non-appealable order, by the Commission or FCC, approving an agreement resulting from the resolution of the issues set forth in such arbitration or mediation request or (iii) the first anniversary of the End Date, unless the Parties agree otherwise in writing.

6.2. In the event this Agreement expires under Section 5.1 and the Parties have not executed a successor agreement at the time of the expiration and Section 6.2 does not apply, or no longer applies, Embarq will continue to provide services pursuant to one of the following:

6.2.1. Such standard terms and conditions or tariffs approved by and made generally available by the Commission, if they exist as of the End Date; or

6.2.2. An existing agreement between Embarq and another carrier adopted by NuVox for the remaining term of that agreement. If NuVox fails to designate an agreement under this subsection within thirty (30) business days after notice is given as described in Sec.20, NuVox agrees to operate under Embarq's then-existing template interconnection agreement until NuVox and Embarq execute a new agreement.

## **7. CHARGES AND PAYMENT**

7.1. In consideration of the services provided by Embarq under this Agreement, NuVox shall pay the charges set forth in Part C subject to the provisions of Section 4 hereof. The billing and payment procedures for charges incurred by NuVox hereunder are set forth in Part K.

7.2. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, the Parties shall pay invoices within thirty (30) Days from the bill date shown on the invoice. For invoices not paid when due, late payment charges will be assessed under Section 7.4. If the payment due date is a Saturday, Sunday or a designated bank holiday, payment shall be made the next business day.

- 7.2.1. If an invoice is not paid within sixty (60) Days after the bill date, Embarq will suspend processing new orders and cancel any pending orders.
  - 7.2.2. If the account remains delinquent ninety (90) Days after the bill date, Embarq will terminate all services under this Agreement, subject to the notice requirements in section 5.2.
- 7.3. Billed amounts for which written, itemized disputes or claims have been filed are not due for payment until such disputes or claims have been resolved in accordance with the provisions governing dispute resolution of this Agreement. Itemized, written disputes must be submitted on the dispute form to the National Dispute Center, or appropriate equivalent center no later than the due date of the related invoice. A copy of the dispute must be sent with the remittance of the remainder of the invoice.
- 7.4. Embarq will assess late payment charges to NuVox and NuVox will assess late payment charges to Embarq until the amount due is paid in full. Such late payment charges will be calculated using a rate equal to the lesser of
  - 7.4.1. the total amount due times the highest rate (in decimal value) which may be levied by law for commercial transactions, compounded daily for the number of days from the payment due date to and including the date the customer actually makes the payment to Embarq, or Embarq makes the payment to NuVox, or
  - 7.4.2. the total amount due multiplied by a factor of 0.000329 times the number of days which occurred between the payment due date and (including) the date payment is actually made.
- 7.5. Embarq reserves the right to secure the account with a suitable form of security deposit in accordance with Section 38.

## **8. AUDITS AND EXAMINATIONS**

- 8.1. Each Party to this Agreement will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of its data as submitted to the other Party involved. Subject to each Party's reasonable security requirements and except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, either Party, at its own expense, may audit the other Party's books, records and other documents directly related to billing and



invoicing once in any twelve (12) month period for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of the other Party's billing and invoicing. "Audit" shall mean a comprehensive review of bills for services performed under this Agreement; "Examination" shall mean an inquiry into a specific element of or process related to bills for services performed under this Agreement. Either Party (the "Requesting Party") may perform one (1) Audit per twelve (12) month period commencing with the Effective Date, with the assistance of the other Party, which will not be unreasonably withheld. The Audit period will include no more than the preceding twelve (12) month period as of the date of the Audit request. The Requesting Party may perform Examinations, as it deems necessary, with the assistance of the other Party, which will not be unreasonably withheld.

- 8.2. Upon thirty (30) Days written notice by the Requesting Party to Audited Party, Requesting Party shall have the right through its authorized representative to make an Audit, during normal business hours, of any records, accounts and processes which contain information bearing upon the billing and invoicing of the services provided under this Agreement. Within the above-described thirty (30) Day period, the Parties shall reasonably agree upon the scope of the Audit or Examination, the documents and processes to be reviewed, and the time, place and manner in which the Audit or Examination shall be performed. Audited Party agrees to provide Audit or Examination support, including appropriate access to and use of Audited Party's facilities (e.g.: conference rooms, telephones, copying machines).
- 8.3. Each party shall bear its own expenses in connection with the conduct of the Audit or Examination. The reasonable cost of special data extraction required by the Requesting Party to conduct the Audit or Examination will be paid for by the Requesting Party. For purposes of this Section 8.3, a "Special Data Extraction" shall mean the creation of an output record or informational report (from existing data files) that is not created in the normal course of business. If any program is developed to Requesting Party's specifications and at Requesting Party's expense, Requesting Party shall specify at the time of request whether the program is to be retained by Audited Party for reuse for any subsequent Audit or Examination.
- 8.4. Adjustments based on the audit findings may be applied to the twelve (12) month period included in the audit. Adjustments, credits or payments shall be made and any corrective action shall commence within thirty (30) Days from the requesting

Party's receipt of the final audit report to compensate for any errors or omissions which are disclosed by such Audit or Examination and are agreed to by the Parties. Interest shall be calculated in accordance with Section 7.4 above.

- 8.5. Neither such right to examine and audit nor the right to receive an adjustment shall be affected by any statement to the contrary appearing on checks or otherwise, unless such statement expressly waiving such right appears in writing, is signed by the authorized representative of the Party having such right and is delivered to the other Party in a manner sanctioned by this Agreement.
- 8.6. This Section shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement for a period of one (1) year after expiration or termination of this Agreement.

## **9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

- 9.1. Any intellectual property which originates from or is developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive ownership of that Party. Intellectual property includes, without limitation, patent, copyright, trade mark, trade secrets, and other proprietary rights. Each Party grants to the other party a limited license to its intellectual property solely to the extent necessary for the use of any facility or equipment (including software) or for the receipt of services as provided under this Agreement. Except for such limited license to use its intellectual property, no license in patent, copyright, trademark or trade secret, or other proprietary or intellectual property right now or hereafter owned, controlled or licensable by a Party, is granted to the other Party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel.
- 9.2. NuVox acknowledges that its right under this Agreement for Local Interconnection with Embarq's network and to unbundled and/or combine Embarq's Network Elements may be subject to or limited by intellectual property rights and contract rights of third parties. Embarq shall notify NuVox of any such limitations. Embarq agrees to use its best efforts to obtain for NuVox, third party intellectual property rights, under commercially reasonable terms, to each unbundled Network Element necessary for NuVox to use such unbundled Network Element in the same manner as Embarq. If Embarq is unsuccessful in obtaining a right or license for NuVox, it shall promptly notify NuVox of the specific features or equipment at issue as well as the specific circumstances that prevented it from obtaining the revised provisions. Embarq shall provide NuVox information regarding the specific facilities or equipment (including software)

that it is unable to provide pursuant to the license, as well as any and all related facilities or equipment; the extent to which it asserts NuVox's use has exceeded (or will exceed) the scope of the license; and the specific circumstances that prevented it from obtaining the revised provisions.

- 9.3. Embarq shall have no obligations to attempt to obtain for NuVox any third party intellectual property right(s) that would permit NuVox to use any unbundled Network Element in a different manner than used by Embarq.
- 9.4. To the extent not prohibited by a contract with the vendor of the Network Element sought by NuVox that contains intellectual property licenses, Embarq shall reveal to NuVox the name of the vendor, the intellectual property rights licensed to Embarq under the vendor contract and the terms of the contract (excluding cost terms). Embarq shall, at NuVox's request, contact the vendor to attempt to obtain permission to reveal additional contract details to NuVox.
- 9.5. All costs associated with the extension of third party intellectual property rights to NuVox pursuant to Section 9.2, including the cost of the license extension itself and the costs associated with the effort to obtain the license, shall be part of the cost of providing the unbundled Network Element to which the intellectual property rights relate and apportioned to all requesting NuVox using that unbundled Network Element including Embarq.
- 9.6. Embarq hereby conveys no licenses to use such third party intellectual property rights and makes no warranties, express or implied, concerning NuVox's rights with respect to such third party intellectual property rights and contract rights, including whether such rights will be violated by such Local Interconnection or unbundling and/or combining of Network Elements (including combining with NuVox's use of other functions, facilities, products or services furnished under this Agreement). Any licenses or warranties for intellectual property rights associated with unbundled network elements are vendor licenses and warranties and are a part of the third party intellectual property rights Embarq agrees in Section 9.2 to use its best efforts to obtain.

## **10. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

- 10.1. Neither Party, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants or employees shall be liable for damages arising from errors, mistakes, omissions, interruptions,

or delays in the course of establishing, furnishing, rearranging, moving, terminating, changing, 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.

- 10.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of a service outage, Embarq will provide bill credits (i) to the same extent that Embarq provides credits to its retail customers for similar services or (ii) an amount equal to the proportionate charge for the service(s) or unbundled element(s) provided for the period during which service was effected; whichever is greater.
- 10.3. Neither Party shall be responsible to the other for any indirect, special, consequential or punitive damages, including (without limitation) damages for 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"), whether arising in contract or tort except that the foregoing shall not limit a Party's obligation under Section 11 to indemnify, defend, and hold the other Party harmless against amounts payable to third parties.

## **11. INDEMNIFICATION**

- 11.1. Each Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the other Party from and against claims by third parties for damage to tangible personal or real property and/or personal injuries to the extent caused by the negligence or willful misconduct or omission of the indemnifying Party.
- 11.2. To the extent permitted by applicable laws, NuVox shall indemnify and hold harmless Embarq from all claims by NuVox's subscribers.
- 11.3. To the extent permitted by applicable laws, Embarq shall indemnify and hold harmless NuVox from all claims by Embarq's subscribers.
- 11.4. The indemnifying Party under this Section agrees to defend any suit brought against the other Party either individually or jointly with the indemnified Party for any such loss, injury, liability, claim or demand.

- 11.5. The indemnified Party agrees to notify the other Party promptly, in writing, of any written claims, lawsuits, or demands for which it is claimed that the indemnifying Party is responsible under this Section and to cooperate in every reasonable way to facilitate defense or settlement of claims.
- 11.6. The indemnifying Party shall have complete control over defense of the case and over the terms of any proposed settlement or compromise thereof. The indemnifying Party shall not be liable under this Section for settlement by the indemnified Party of any claim, lawsuit, or demand, if the indemnifying Party has not approved the settlement in advance, unless the indemnifying Party has had the defense of the claim, lawsuit, or demand tendered to it in writing and has failed to promptly assume such defense. In the event of such failure to assume defense, the indemnifying Party shall be liable for any reasonable settlement made by the indemnified Party without approval of the indemnifying Party.
- 11.7. When the lines or services of other companies and NuVoxs are used in establishing connections to and/or from points not reached by a Party's lines, neither Party shall be liable for any act or omission of the other companies or carriers.
- 11.8. In addition to its indemnity obligations hereunder, each Party shall, to the extent allowed by law or Commission Order, provide, in its tariffs and contracts with its subscribers that relate to any Telecommunications Services provided or contemplated under this Agreement, that in no case shall such Party or any of its agents, contractors or others retained by such Party be liable to any subscriber or third party for
- 11.8.1. any loss relating to or arising out of this Agreement, whether in contract or tort, that exceeds the amount such Party would have charged the applicable subscriber for the service(s) or function(s) that gave rise to such loss, and
- 11.8.2. Consequential Damages (as defined in Section 10 above).

## **12. INSURANCE**

- 12.1. During the term of this Agreement, NuVox shall carry, and shall cause any subcontractors to carry, with financially reputable insurers which are licensed to

do business in all jurisdictions where any property is located, not less than the following insurance:

- 12.2. Commercial General Liability with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence and aggregate for bodily injury, property damage and personal and advertising injury liability insurance to include coverage for contractual and products/completed operations liability, naming Embarq as additional insured;
- 12.3. Business Auto liability, including all owned, non-owned and hired automobiles, in an amount of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit per accident for bodily injury and property damage liability, naming Embarq as additional insured;
- 12.4. Workers Compensation as provided for in the jurisdiction where the Property is located, with an Employer's Liability limit of not less than \$100,000 each accident, \$100,000 each employee by disease, and \$500,000 policy limit; and
- 12.5. Umbrella or excess liability in an amount not less than \$5,000,000 per occurrence and aggregate in excess of the above-referenced Commercial General, Business Auto and Employer's Liability, naming Embarq as additional insured; and
- 12.6. "All Risk" property insurance on a full replacement cost basis insuring NuVox's property situated on or within the Property. NuVox may elect to insure business interruption and contingent business interruption, as it is agreed that Embarq has no liability for loss of profit or revenues should an interruption of service occur.
- 12.7. Nothing contained in this Section shall limit NuVox's liability to Embarq to the limits of insurance certified or carried.
- 12.8. All policies required of NuVox shall contain evidence of the insurer's waiver of the right of subrogation against Embarq for any insured loss covered thereunder. All policies of insurance shall be written as primary policies and not contributing with or in excess of the coverage, if any, that Embarq may carry.
- 12.9. NuVox shall furnish to Embarq a certificate or certificates of insurance, satisfactory in form and content to Embarq, evidencing that the above coverage is in force and has been endorsed to guarantee that the coverage will not be cancelled without first giving at least 30 days prior written notice to Embarq.

### **13. BRANDING**

- 13.1. NuVox shall provide the exclusive interface to NuVox subscribers, except as NuVox shall otherwise specify for the reporting of trouble or other matters identified by NuVox for which Embarq may directly communicate with NuVox subscribers. In those instances where NuVox requests that Embarq personnel interface with NuVox subscribers, such Embarq personnel shall inform NuVox subscribers that they are representing NuVox, or such brand as NuVox may specify.
- 13.2. Other business materials furnished by Embarq to NuVox subscribers shall bear no corporate name, logo, trademark or tradename.
- 13.3. Except as specifically permitted by a Party, in no event shall either Party provide information to the other Party's subscribers about the other Party or the other Party's products or services.
- 13.4. Embarq shall share pertinent details of Embarq's training approaches related to branding with NuVox to be used by Embarq to assure that Embarq meets the branding requirements agreed to by the Parties.
- 13.5. This Section shall not confer on either Party any rights to the service marks, trademarks and/or trade names owned by or used in connection with services by the other Party, except as expressly permitted in writing by the other Party.

### **14. REMEDIES**

- 14.1. Except as otherwise provided herein, all rights of termination, cancellation or other remedies prescribed in this Agreement, or otherwise available, are cumulative and are not intended to be exclusive of other remedies to which the injured Party may be entitled in case of any breach or threatened breach by the other Party of any provision of this Agreement, and use of one or more remedies shall not bar use of any other remedy for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Agreement, including without limitation, specific performance.

### **15. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLICITY**

- 15.1. All information which is disclosed by one Party ("Disclosing Party") to the other ("Recipient") in connection with this Agreement, or acquired in the course of

performance of this Agreement, shall be deemed confidential and proprietary to the Disclosing Party and subject to this Agreement, such information includes but is not limited to, orders for services, usage information in any form, and CPNI as that term is defined by the Act and the rules and regulations of the FCC (“Confidential Information”).

15.2. During the term of this Agreement, and for a period of three (3) years thereafter, Recipient shall

15.2.1. use Confidential Information only for the purpose of performing under this Agreement,

15.2.2. hold Confidential Information in confidence and disclose it only to employees or agents who have a need to know it in order to perform under this Agreement, and

15.2.3. safeguard Confidential Information from unauthorized use or Disclosure using no less than the degree of care with which Recipient safeguards its own Confidential Information.

15.3. Recipient shall have no obligation to safeguard Confidential Information

15.3.1. which was in the Recipient’s possession free of restriction prior to its receipt from Disclosing Party,

15.3.2. which becomes publicly known or available through no breach of this Agreement by Recipient,

15.3.3. which is rightfully acquired by Recipient free of restrictions on its Disclosure, or

15.3.4. which is independently developed by personnel of Recipient to whom the Disclosing Party’s Confidential Information had not been previously disclosed.

15.4. Recipient may disclose Confidential Information if required by law, a court, or governmental agency, if the Disclosing Party has been notified of the requirement promptly after Recipient becomes aware of the requirement, and the Recipient undertakes all lawful measures to avoid disclosing such information until Disclosing Party has had reasonable time to obtain a protective order.



Recipient will comply with any protective order that covers the Confidential Information to be disclosed.

- 15.5. Nothing herein shall preclude a Party from including Confidential Information in filings before an appropriate adjudicatory body to enforce the Agreement; provided that appropriate measures will be taken to protect the confidentiality of any Confidential Information so disclosed.
- 15.6. Each Party agrees that in the event of a breach of this Section 15 by Recipient or its representatives, Disclosing Party shall be entitled to equitable relief, including injunctive relief and specific performance. Such remedies shall not be exclusive, but shall be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity.
- 15.7. Unless otherwise agreed, neither Party shall publish or use the other Party's logo, trademark, service mark, name, language, pictures, symbols or words from which the other Party's name may reasonably be inferred or implied in any product, service, advertisement, promotion, or any other publicity matter, except that nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a Party from engaging in valid comparative advertising. This Section 15.7 shall confer no rights on a Party to the service marks, trademarks and trade names owned or used in connection with services by the other Party or its Affiliates, except as expressly permitted by the other Party.
- 15.8. Neither Party shall produce, publish, or distribute any press release nor other publicity referring to the other Party or its Affiliates, or referring to this Agreement, without the prior written approval of the other Party. Each party shall obtain the other Party's prior approval before discussing this Agreement in any press or media interviews. In no event shall either Party mischaracterize the contents of this Agreement in any public statement or in any representation to a governmental entity or member thereof.
- 15.9. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Section 15, nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the rights of either Party with respect to its customer information under any applicable law, including without limitation § 222 of the Act.

## **16. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES**

16.1. EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED ELSEWHERE IN THIS AGREEMENT TO THE CONTRARY, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO QUALITY, FUNCTIONALITY OR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO REPRESENTATION OR STATEMENT MADE BY EITHER PARTY OR ANY OF ITS AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES, ORAL OR WRITTEN, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY SPECIFICATIONS, DESCRIPTIONS OR STATEMENTS PROVIDED OR MADE SHALL BE BINDING UPON EITHER PARTY AS A WARRANTY.

## **17. ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACT**

17.1. If any Affiliate of either Party succeeds to that portion of the business of such Party that is responsible for, or entitled to, any rights, obligations, duties, or other interests under this Agreement, such Affiliate may succeed to those rights, obligations, duties, and interest of such Party under this Agreement. In the event of any such succession hereunder, the successor shall expressly undertake in writing to the other Party the performance and liability for those obligations and duties as to which it is succeeding a Party to this Agreement. Thereafter, the successor Party shall be deemed NuVox or Embarq and the original Party shall be relieved of such obligations and duties, except for matters arising out of events occurring prior to the date of such undertaking.

17.2. Except as provided in Section 17.1, any assignment of this Agreement or of the work to be performed, in whole or in part, or of any other interest of a Party hereunder, without the other Party's written consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, shall be void.

## **18. GOVERNING LAW**

18.1. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Act, the FCC's Rules and Regulations and orders of the Commission, except insofar as state law may control any aspect of this Agreement, in which case the domestic

laws of the Commission's state, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles, shall govern.

## **19. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES**

19.1. It is the intention of the Parties that each Party shall be an independent contractor and nothing contained herein shall constitute the Parties as joint venturers, partners, employees or agents of one another, and neither Party shall have the right or power to bind or obligate the other.

## **20. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES**

20.1. The provisions of this Agreement are for the benefit of the Parties hereto and not for any other person, and this Agreement shall not provide any person not a party hereto with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, right of action, or other right in excess of those existing without reference hereto. This shall not be construed to prevent NuVox from providing its Telecommunications Services to other carriers.

## **21. NOTICES**

21.1. Except as otherwise provided herein, all notices or other communication hereunder shall be deemed to have been duly given when made in writing and delivered in person or deposited in the United States mail, certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested and addressed as follows:

If to Embarq:	Director Local Carrier Markets Embarq 6450 Embarq Parkway KSOPHN0116-1B671 Overland Park, KS 66251	If to NuVox:	Susan J. Berlin VP, Senior Regulatory Counsel NuVox Communications Two North Main Street Greenville, SC 29601 office 864-331-7323 fax (864) 672-5019 <a href="mailto:sberlin@nuvox.com">sberlin@nuvox.com</a>
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With a  
copy to:

With a  
Copy to:

- 21.2. If delivery, other than certified mail, return receipt requested, is used to give notice, a receipt of such delivery shall be obtained and the notice shall be effective when received. If delivery via certified mail, return receipt requested, is used, notice shall be effective when sent. The address to which notices or communications may be given to either Party may be changed by written notice given by such Party to the other pursuant to this Section.

## **22. WAIVERS**

- 22.1. No waiver of any provisions of this Agreement and no consent to any default under this Agreement shall be effective unless the same shall be in writing and properly executed by or on behalf of the Party against whom such waiver or consent is claimed.
- 22.2. No course of dealing or failure of any Party to strictly enforce any term, right, or condition of this Agreement in any instance shall be construed as a general waiver or relinquishment of such term, right or condition.
- 22.3. Waiver by either Party of any default by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other default.

## **23. SURVIVAL**

- 23.1. Termination of this Agreement, or any part hereof, for any cause shall not release either Party from any liability which at the time of termination had already accrued to the other Party or which thereafter accrues in any respect to any act or omission occurring prior to the termination or from an obligation which is expressly stated in this Agreement to survive termination including but not limited to Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 20, 22, and 25.

## **24. FORCE MAJEURE**

- 24.1. Neither Party shall be held 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, such as acts of God, acts of civil or military authority, embargoes, epidemics, war, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, power blackouts, strikes, work stoppage affecting a supplier or unusually severe weather. No delay or other failure to perform shall be excused pursuant to this Section 24 unless delay or failure and consequences

thereof are beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Party claiming excusable delay or other failure to perform. Subject to Sections 5, 5.2, and 5.6 hereof, in the event of any such excused delay in the performance of a Party's obligation(s) under this Agreement, the due date for the performance of the original obligation(s) shall be extended by a term equal to the time lost by reason of the delay. In the event of such delay, the delayed Party shall perform its obligations at a performance level no less than that which it uses for its own operations. In the event of such performance delay or failure by Embarq, Embarq agrees to resume performance in a nondiscriminatory manner and not favor its own provision of Telecommunications Services above that of NuVox.

## **25. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- 25.1. The Parties recognize and agree that the Commission has continuing jurisdiction to implement and enforce all terms and conditions of this Agreement, except those services in Part I (non-251 services). Accordingly, the Parties agree that any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement that the Parties cannot resolve may be submitted to the Commission for resolution. If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute, the Parties agree to seek expedited resolution by the Commission, and shall request that resolution occur in no event later than sixty (60) Days from the date of submission of such dispute. If the Commission appoints an expert(s) or other facilitator(s) to assist in its decision making, each Party shall pay half of the fees and expenses so incurred. During the Commission proceeding each Party shall continue to perform its obligations under this Agreement provided, however, that neither Party shall be required to act in any unlawful fashion. This provision shall not preclude the Parties from seeking relief available in any other forum.
- 25.2. If any matter is subject to a bona fide dispute between the Parties, the disputing Party shall within sixty (60) Days of the event giving rise to the dispute, give written notice to the other Party of the dispute and include in such notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item.
- 25.3. If the Parties are unable to resolve the issues related to the dispute in the normal course of business within thirty (30) Days after delivery of notice of the Dispute, to the other Party, the dispute shall be escalated to a designated representative who has authority to settle the dispute and who is at a higher level of management

than the persons with direct responsibility for administration of this Agreement. The designated representatives shall meet as often as they reasonably deem necessary in order to discuss the dispute and negotiate in good faith in an effort to resolve such dispute, but in no event shall such resolution exceed 60 Days from the initial notice. The specific format for such discussions will be left to the discretion of the designated representatives, provided, however, that all reasonable requests for relevant information made by one Party to the other Party shall be honored.

- 25.4. After such period either Party may file a complaint with the FCC or the Commission.

## **26. COOPERATION ON FRAUD**

- 26.1. The Parties agree that they shall cooperate with one another to investigate, minimize and take corrective action in cases of fraud. The Parties' fraud minimization procedures are to be cost effective and implemented so as not to unduly burden or harm one party as compared to the other.

## **27. TAXES**

- 27.1. For purposes of this Section, the terms "taxes" and "fees" shall include but not be limited to federal, state or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts or other taxes or tax-like fees of whatever nature and however designated (including Tariff surcharges and any fees, charges or other payments, contractual or otherwise, for the use of public streets or rights of way, whether designated as franchise fees or otherwise) that are imposed, or sought to be imposed, on or with respect to the services furnished hereunder or measured by the charges or payments therefore, excluding any taxes levied on income.
- 27.2. Taxes and Fees Imposed Directly On Either Providing Party or Purchasing Party.
- 27.2.1. Taxes and fees imposed on the providing Party, which are not permitted or required to be passed on by the providing Party to its customer, shall be borne and paid by the providing Party.
- 27.2.2. Taxes and fees imposed on the purchasing Party, which are not required to be collected and/or remitted by the providing Party, shall be borne and paid by the purchasing Party.

27.3. Taxes and Fees Imposed on Purchasing Party but Collected And Remitted By Providing Party.

27.3.1. Taxes and fees imposed on the purchasing Party shall be borne by the purchasing Party, even if the obligation to collect and/or remit such taxes or fees is placed on the providing Party.

27.3.2. To the extent permitted by Applicable Rules, any such taxes and/or fees shall be shown as separate items on applicable billing documents between the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, and subject to 27.3.5, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for any such taxes and fees regardless of whether they are actually billed by the providing Party at the time that the respective service is billed.

27.3.3. If the purchasing Party determines that in its opinion any such taxes or fees are not payable, the providing Party shall not bill such taxes or fees to the purchasing Party if the purchasing Party provides written certification, reasonably satisfactory to the providing Party, stating that it is exempt or otherwise not subject to the tax or fee, setting forth the basis therefore, and satisfying any other requirements under applicable law. If any authority seeks to collect any such tax or fee that the purchasing Party has determined and certified not to be payable, or any such tax or fee that was not billed by the providing Party, the purchasing Party may contest the same in good faith, at its own expense. In any such contest, the purchasing Party shall promptly furnish the providing Party with copies of all filings in any proceeding, protest, or legal challenge, all rulings issued in connection therewith, and all correspondence between the purchasing Party and the taxing authority.

27.3.4. In the event that all or any portion of an amount sought to be collected must be paid in order to contest the imposition of any such tax or fee, or to avoid the existence of a lien on the assets of the providing Party during the pendency of such contest, the purchasing Party shall be responsible for such payment and shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery.

27.3.5. If it is ultimately determined that any additional amount of such a tax or fee is due to the imposing authority, the Purchasing Party shall pay such

additional amount, including any interest and penalties thereon provided that if the Providing Party unreasonably failed to bill for the taxes and fees, the Providing Party shall be liable for any interest or penalties. The failure to bill for taxes and fees shall not be considered to be unreasonably if it is based upon a Purchasing Party's certification that such taxes and fees are not owed or if such unbilled taxes and fees are found to be owing as a result of a new governmental interpretation and/or application of the tax laws and regulations that differs from prior practices, or other excusable circumstances that are similar in nature.

27.3.6. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, but subject to Section 26.3.5, the Purchasing Party shall protect, indemnify and hold harmless (and defend at the purchasing Party's expense) the providing Party from and against any such tax or fee, interest or penalties thereon, or other charges or payable expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) with respect thereto, which are incurred by the providing Party in connection with any claim for or contest of any such tax or fee.

27.3.7. Each Party shall notify the other Party in writing of any assessment, proposed assessment or other claim for any additional amount of such a tax or fee by a taxing authority; such notice to be provided, if possible, at least ten (10) Days prior to the date by which a response, protest or other appeal must be filed, but in no event later than thirty (30) Days after receipt of such assessment, proposed assessment or claim.

27.4. Taxes and Fees Imposed on Providing Party But Passed On To Purchasing Party.

27.4.1. Taxes and fees imposed on the providing Party, which are permitted or required to be passed on by the providing Party to its customer, shall be borne by the purchasing Party.

27.4.2. To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and/or fees shall be shown as separate items on applicable billing documents between the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for any such taxes and fees regardless of whether they are actually billed by the providing Party at the time that the respective service is billed provided that the purchasing Party will



not be liable for interest and penalties if the Providing Party failed to bill for the taxes and fees.

- 27.4.3. If the purchasing Party disagrees with the providing Party's determination as to the application or basis for any such tax or fee, the Parties shall consult with respect to the imposition and billing of such tax or fee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the providing Party shall retain ultimate responsibility for determining whether and to what extent any such taxes or fees are applicable, and the purchasing Party shall abide by such determination and pay such taxes or fees to the providing Party. The providing Party shall further retain ultimate responsibility for determining whether and how to contest the imposition of such taxes and fees; provided, however, that any such contest undertaken at the request of the purchasing Party shall be at the purchasing Party's expense.
- 27.4.4. In the event that all or any portion of an amount sought to be collected must be paid in order to contest the imposition of any such tax or fee, or to avoid the existence of a lien on the assets of the providing Party during the pendency of such contest, the purchasing Party shall be responsible for such payment and shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery.
- 27.4.5. If it is ultimately determined that any additional amount of such a tax or fee is due to the imposing authority, the purchasing Party shall pay such additional amount, including any interest and penalties thereon provided that if the Providing Party failed to bill for the taxes and fees, the Providing Party shall be liable for any interest or penalties. The failure to bill for taxes and fees shall not be considered to be unreasonable if it is based upon a purchasing Party's certification that such taxes and fees are not owed or if such unbilled taxes and fees are found to be owing as a result of a new governmental interpretation and/or application of the tax laws and regulations that differs from prior practices, or other excusable circumstances similar in nature..
- 27.4.6. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the purchasing Party shall protect, indemnify and hold harmless (and defend at the purchasing Party's expense) the providing Party from and against any such tax or fee, interest or penalties thereon, or other reasonable charges or payable

expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) with respect thereto, which are incurred by the providing Party in connection with any claim for or contest of any such tax or fee.

- 27.4.7. Each Party shall notify the other Party in writing of any assessment, proposed assessment or other claim for any additional amount of such a tax or fee by a taxing authority; such notice to be provided, if possible, at least ten (10) Days prior to the date by which a response, protest or other appeal must be filed, but in no event later than thirty (30) Days after receipt of such assessment, proposed assessment or claim.
- 27.5. In any contest of a tax or fee by one Party, the other Party shall cooperate fully by providing records, testimony and such additional information or assistance as may reasonably be necessary to pursue the contest. Further, the other Party shall be reimbursed for any reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket copying and travel expenses incurred in assisting in such contest.
- 27.6. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale and thus subject to tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation of the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. If Applicable Rules excludes or exempts a purchase of services under this Agreement from a Tax, but does not also provide an exemption procedure, then the providing Party will not collect such Tax if the purchasing Party furnishes the providing Party with a letter or other evidence of exemption, reasonably satisfactory to the providing Party, claiming an exemption and identifying the Applicable Rules that both allows such exemption and does not require an exemption certificate. If the exemption is later found to be invalid by the applicable jurisdiction, then the purchasing Party shall pay any tax, interest and/or penalty that is determined to be due, and shall be responsible for any costs incurred by the providing Party, including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees.

## **28. AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS**

- 28.1. No provision of this Agreement shall be deemed waived, amended or modified by either Party unless such a waiver, amendment or modification is in writing, dated, and signed by both Parties.

**29. SEVERABILITY**

29.1. Subject to Section 4.2, if any part of this Agreement is held to be invalid, void or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity will affect only the portion of this Agreement which is invalid. In all other respects this Agreement will stand as if such invalid provision had not been a part thereof, and the remainder of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated thereby.

**30. HEADINGS NOT CONTROLLING**

30.1. The headings and numbering of Sections and Parts in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not be construed to define or limit any of the terms herein or affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

**31. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

31.1. This Agreement, including all Parts and subordinate documents attached hereto or referenced herein, including any tariff provisions specifically referenced herein as they may be amended from time to time, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein, constitute the entire matter thereof, and supersede all prior oral or written agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, proposals, and undertakings with respect to the subject matter thereof. This Agreement shall not constitute a waiver, satisfaction or novation of any amounts that may be owing by either Party to the other Party prior to the execution of this Agreement, and each Party shall have the rights and remedies set forth in this Agreement with respect to any uncured breach of a previous interconnection agreement, without the necessity of giving any further written notice of such delinquent payment or other breach, if such written notice has already been given.

**32. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS**

32.1. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, Embarq and NuVox agree this Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Parties hereto and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

### **33. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

- 33.1. This Agreement sets forth the overall standards of performance for the services, processes, and systems capabilities that the Parties will provide to each other, and the intervals at which those services, processes and capabilities will be provided. The Parties understand that the arrangements and provision of services described in this Agreement shall require technical and operational coordination between the Parties. Accordingly, the Parties agree to form a team (the “Implementation Team”) which shall develop and identify those processes, guidelines, specifications, standards and additional terms and conditions necessary to support and satisfy the standards set forth in this Agreement and implement each Party's obligations hereunder.
- 33.2. Dispute Resolution. If the Implementation Team is unable to agree upon any of the matters to be included in the Implementation Plan, then either Party may invoke the procedures set forth in Part B Section 25.

#### **34. FEDERAL CONTRACTS**

34.1. Each Party certifies to the other, to the best of its knowledge and belief that, 1) no federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the Parties, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement; and 2) If any funds other than federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee or agency or a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of a Member of Congress in connection with solicitation of NuVox's federal contract(s), the lobbying Party shall complete and submit Standard Form LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with the Form's instructions.

#### **35. FEDERAL JURISDICTIONAL AREAS**

35.1. Article 1, § 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution provides the authority to Congress to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over areas and structures used for military purposes (Federal Enclaves). Thus, Telecommunications Services to such Federal Enclaves are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Parties agree that Services provided within Federal Enclaves are not within the scope of this Agreement. To the extent Embarq has contracts with federal entities that limit or prohibit the ability of NuVox to provide resale or UNEs such contract will govern Telecommunications Services on such Federal Enclave. If the contract with the federal entity provides for the resale or provision of UNEs to provide service on the Federal Enclave, Embarq will provide NuVox with information regarding the provision of service on the Federal Enclave.

## **PART C - GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

### **36. USE OF FACILITIES**

36.1. In situations where a competitive LEC has the use of the facilities (i.e., Local Loop) to a specific customer premise, either through resale of local service or the lease of the Local Loop as an Unbundled Network Element, and Embarq receives a good faith request for service from a customer at the same premise or from another carrier with the appropriate customer authorization, the procedures below will apply.

36.1.1. Embarq will process such orders and provision services consistent with the terms contained in Section 72, of this Agreement.

36.1.2. Where NuVox is using a single facility to provide service to multiple end user customers, Embarq will not disconnect that facility as a result of the following procedures.

36.1.3. Embarq will follow methods prescribed by the FCC and any applicable state regulation for carrier change verification.

36.1.4. Customer with Existing Service Changing Local Service Provider

36.1.4.1. In situations where a competitive LEC submits an order for an end user customer that is changing local service providers for existing service, and is not adding service (*i.e.*, an additional line), Embarq will process the service request without delay, and provide the losing competitive LEC a customer loss notification consistent with industry standards.

36.1.5. Customer with Existing Service Adding New Service

36.1.5.1. In situations where an order is submitted for an end user customer adding service to existing service (*i.e.*, an additional line), the order should be marked as an additional line and existing facilities will not be affected.

36.1.6. Customer Requesting New Service where Previous Customer has Abandoned Service

36.1.6.1. The following applies in the case where an end user customer vacates premises without notifying the local service provider and a new end user customer moves into the vacated premises and orders new service from a local service provider and neither Embarq nor the previous local service provider are aware that the original end user customer has abandoned the service in place.

36.1.6.2. When a carrier requests service at a location and marks the order as abandoned and NuVox is the previous local service provider, Embarq shall notify NuVox via fax that it has had a request for service at the premise location that is currently being served by NuVox;

36.1.6.3. If available to Embarq, Embarq shall include the name and address of the party receiving service at such locations, but at a minimum shall provide local service address location information;

36.1.6.4. If NuVox does not respond within twenty-four (24) hours (excluding weekends and holidays) after receiving Embarq's notification or if NuVox responds relinquishing the facilities, Embarq shall be free to use the facilities in question and Embarq shall issue a disconnect order with respect to NuVox service at that location. If NuVox responds stating that the service is working and should not be disconnected, Embarq will notify the carrier ordering service and request verification of the address and location or the submission of an order for an additional line.

**37. PRICE SCHEDULE**

37.1. All prices under this Agreement are set forth in the attachments designated Table One and Table Two of this Agreement are hereby incorporated into, and made a

part of, this Agreement. If this Agreement provides for a service that does not have a corresponding rate in Table One or Table Two, or is not subject to section 43, Embarq will develop a rate consistent with section 44.

37.2. Subject to the provisions of Part B, Section 4 of this Agreement, all rates provided under this Agreement shall remain in effect for the term of this Agreement.

37.3. Local Service Resale

37.3.1. The rates that NuVox shall pay to Embarq for Local Resale are as set forth in Table One of this Agreement and shall be applied consistent with the provisions of Part D of this Agreement.

37.4. Unbundled Network Elements

37.4.1. The charges that NuVox shall pay to Embarq for Unbundled Network Elements are set forth in Table One of this Agreement.

37.5. Collocation

37.5.1. The charges that NuVox shall pay to Embarq for Collocation are set forth in Table Two of this Agreement.

37.6. Call Related Databases

37.6.1. The charges that NuVox shall pay to Embarq for Call Related Databases purchased pursuant to Part J are set forth in Table One of this Agreement.

## **38. SECURITY DEPOSIT**

38.1. Embarq reserves the right to secure the account with a suitable form of security deposit, unless satisfactory credit has already been established through twelve (12) consecutive months of current payments for carrier services to Embarq and all ILEC affiliates of Embarq. A payment is not considered current in any month if it is made more than thirty (30) Days after the bill date.

38.2. The security deposit shall take the form of cash or cash equivalent, an irrevocable letter of credit or other form of security acceptable to Embarq.

38.3. If a security deposit is required in accordance with section 38.1 on a new account, NuVox will remit such security deposit prior to inauguration of service. If a



security deposit is requested for an existing account, payment of the security deposit will be made prior to acceptance by Embarq of additional orders for service.

- 38.4. The security deposit shall be two (2) months' estimated billings as calculated by Embarq, or twice the most recent month's invoices from Embarq for existing accounts. All security deposits will be subject to a minimum deposit level of \$10,000.
- 38.5. The fact that a security deposit has been made in no way relieves NuVox from complying with Embarq's regulations as to advance payments and the prompt payment of bills on presentation, nor is it a waiver or modification of the regular practices of Embarq for the discontinuance of service for non-payment of any sums due Embarq.
- 38.6. Embarq may increase the security deposit requirements when, in Embarq's reasonable judgment, changes in NuVox's financial status so warrant and/or gross monthly billing has increased beyond the level initially used to determine the security deposit. If payment of the additional security deposit amount is not made within 30 days of the request, Embarq may stop processing orders for service and NuVox will be considered in breach of the Agreement.
- 38.7. Any security deposit shall be held by Embarq as a guarantee of payment of any charges for carrier services billed to NuVox. Embarq may exercise its right to credit any cash deposit to NuVox's account, or to demand payment from the issuing bank or bonding company of any irrevocable bank letter of credit, upon the occurrence of any one of the following events:
  - 38.7.1. when NuVox undisputed balances due to Embarq that are more than thirty (30) Days past due; or
  - 38.7.2. when NuVox files for protection under the bankruptcy laws; or
  - 38.7.3. when an involuntary petition in bankruptcy is filed against NuVox and is not dismissed within sixty (60) Days;
  - 38.7.4. when this Agreement expires or terminates;

- 38.7.5. any letter of credit issued hereunder or any bank issuing a letter of credit hereunder (each, a “Letter of Credit Bank”) fails to meet the terms, conditions, and requirements set forth in this Section 38; or
- 38.7.6. NuVox fails to provide Embarq with a replacement letter of credit on the terms set forth herein at least 10 business days prior to the expiration of any letter of credit issued to Embarq hereunder.
- 38.8. Any security deposit may be held during the continuance of the service as security for the payment of any and all amounts accruing for the service. No interest will accrue or be paid on deposits. Cash or cash equivalent security deposits will be credited to NuVox’s account when NuVox has made current payments for carrier services to Embarq and all Embarq ILEC affiliates for twelve (12) consecutive months.
- 38.9. Any letter of credit issued to Embarq hereunder must meet the following requirements:
  - 38.9.1. The bank issuing any letter of credit hereunder (the “Letter of Credit Bank”) must maintain a minimum credit rating of A (by Standard & Poors) or A2 (by Moody’s). If NuVox proposes that the letter of credit be issued by a bank that is not so rated by Standard & Poors or Moody’s, then NuVox must obtain the prior written approval of such bank by Embarq.
  - 38.9.2. The original letter of credit shall be in such form and on terms that are acceptable to Embarq and must include an automatic one-year extension.
  - 38.9.3. If NuVox receives notice from the Letter of Credit Bank of any non-renewal of a letter of credit issued hereunder, then NuVox shall promptly notify Embarq of such notice of non-renewal. Not later than 10 business days prior to the expiration of the expiring letter of credit, NuVox shall provide Embarq a replacement letter of credit on substantially identical terms to the expiring letter of credit (or such other terms as are acceptable to Embarq). If NuVox provides a replacement letter of credit not later than 10 business days prior to the expiration of the expiring letter of credit, then Embarq shall not make a drawing under the expiring letter of credit. Upon receipt of a

replacement letter of credit meeting the requirements set forth in this Agreement, Embarq will provide the original, expiring letter of credit to NuVox.

- 38.9.4. If NuVox desires to replace any letter of credit issued to Embarq hereunder, whether due to non-renewal or otherwise, each such replacement letter of credit and the Letter of Credit Bank issuing such replacement letter of credit must meet the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in this Section 38.

## **PART D - LOCAL RESALE**

### **39. TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES PROVIDED FOR RESALE**

39.1. At the request of NuVox, and pursuant to the requirements of the Act, and FCC and Commission Rules and Regulations, Embarq shall make available to NuVox for resale Telecommunications Services that Embarq currently provides or may provide hereafter at retail to subscribers who are not Telecommunications Carriers. Such resale may be as allowed by the FCC and Commission. The Telecommunications Services provided by Embarq to NuVox pursuant to this Part D are collectively referred to as "Local Resale." To the extent that this Part describes services which Embarq shall make available to NuVox for resale pursuant to this Agreement, this list of services is neither all inclusive nor exclusive.

### **40. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

40.1. The prices charged to NuVox for Local Resale are the Embarq Tariff retail prices, discounted as set forth in Part C of this Agreement.

40.1.1. Voluntary Federal and State Subscriber Financial Assistance Programs

40.1.1.1. Subsidized local Telecommunications Services are provided to low-income subscribers pursuant to requirements established by the appropriate state regulatory body, and include programs such as Voluntary Federal Subscriber Financial Assistance Program and Link-Up America. Voluntary Federal and State Subscriber Financial Assistance Programs are Services that are available at wholesale discount, but only to the extent required by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. However, when a Embarq subscriber who is eligible for such a federal program or other similar state program chooses to obtain Local Resale from NuVox and NuVox serves such subscriber via Local Resale, Embarq shall identify such subscriber's eligibility to participate in such programs to NuVox in accordance with the procedures set forth herein.

- 40.1.2. Embarq will make any service grandfathered to an end user or any Individual Case Basis (“ICB”) service available to Carrier for resale to that same end-user at the same locations(s). Should Embarq discontinue any grandfathered or ICB service, Embarq will provide to Carrier any legally required notices as soon as practicable and at least equal in quality and timeliness to that which is provided to Embarq’s own customer, prior to the effective date of changes in or discontinuation of any product or service that is available for resale under this section.
- 40.1.3. Lifeline and Link-up Services will be made available at wholesale discount rates.
- 40.1.4. Embarq shall offer for resale all of its Telecommunications Services available at retail to subscribers who are not Telecommunications Carriers, including but not limited to Contract Service Arrangements (or ICB), Special Arrangements (or ICB), and Promotions in excess of ninety (90) Days, all in accordance with FCC and Commission Rules and Regulations. For Contract Service Arrangements, Special Arrangements, or ICBs, the end-user customer’s agreement with Embarq will terminate and any applicable termination liabilities will be charged to the end-user customer. The terms of the Contract Service Arrangement, Special Arrangement or ICB will apply commencing on the date NuVox commences to provide service to the end-user customer and ending on the end date of the Contract Service Arrangement, Special Arrangement or ICB. Embarq will apply the rate in the Contract Service Arrangement, Special Arrangement or ICB in accordance with section 40.1.
- 40.1.5. In the case of resold services, NuVox’s customers will continue to receive any discontinued service or arrangement for resale to its customers for as long as Embarq continues to provide those same services to its own customers.

- 40.1.6. Customer Owned Coin Operated Telephone (COCOT) or Pay Telephone Access lines will not be resold to payphone service providers at wholesale prices under this Agreement.
- 40.1.7. For Telecommunications Services that are offered by Embarq to its end users and that are available for resale, the rules and regulations associated with Embarq's retail Tariff(s) shall apply when the services are resold by NuVox. Use limitations shall be in Parity with services offered by Embarq to its end users.
- 40.1.8. Except as set forth above and as may be allowed by the FCC or Commission, Embarq shall not place conditions or restrictions on NuVox's resale of wholesale regulated Telecommunications Services, except for restrictions on the resale of residential service to other classifications (e.g., residential service to business customers) and for promotions of ninety (90) Days or less in length. In addition, NuVox shall be prohibited from marketing its products using the Embarq product name (e.g., NuVox may purchase the features package called "Embarq Essential" but shall be prohibited from reselling this product using the Embarq brand name or the Embarq product name). Every regulated retail service rate, including promotions over ninety (90) Days in length, discounts, and option plans will have a corresponding wholesale rate. Embarq will make wholesale Telecommunications Service offerings available for all new regulated services at the same time the retail service becomes available.
- 40.1.9. Voice Mail Service is not a Telecommunications Service and, therefore, is not available for resale
- 40.1.10. Hospitality Service. Embarq shall provide all blocking, screening, and all other applicable functions available for hospitality lines under tariff.
- 40.1.11. LIDB Administration
  - 40.1.11.1. Embarq shall maintain customer information for NuVox customers who subscribe to resold Embarq local service dial tone lines, in Embarq's LIDB in the same manner that it maintains information in LIDB for its own similarly situated end-user subscribers. Embarq shall update and maintain the

NuVox information in LIDB on the same schedule that it uses for its own similarly situated end-user subscribers.

40.1.11.2. Until such time as Embarq's LIDB has the software capability to recognize a resold number as NuVox's, Embarq shall store the resold number in its LIDB at no charge and shall retain revenue for LIDB look-ups to the resold number.

40.1.12. Embarq will continue to provide Primary Interexchange Carrier ("PIC") processing for end-users obtaining resold service from NuVox. Embarq will bill and NuVox will pay any PIC change charges. Embarq will only accept said requests for PIC changes from NuVox and not from NuVox's end users.

## **PART E – UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS**

### **41. GENERAL**

41.1. Pursuant to the following terms, Embarq will unbundle and separately price and offer Unbundled Network Elements (“UNEs”). NuVox shall pay Embarq each month for the UNEs provisioned, and shall pay the non-recurring charges listed in Table One or agreed to by the Parties.

### **42. USE OF UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS**

42.1. Embarq shall offer UNEs to NuVox for the purpose of offering Telecommunications Service to NuVox subscribers. Embarq shall offer UNEs to NuVox on an unbundled basis on rates, terms and conditions that are just, reasonable, and non-discriminatory in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

42.2. NuVox may use one or more UNEs to provide any feature, function, capability, or service option that such UNE(s) is (are) technically capable of providing, except as otherwise limited herein. Except as provided elsewhere in this Agreement, it is NuVox’s obligation to combine Embarq provided UNEs with any and all facilities and services whether provided by Embarq, NuVox, or any other party. NuVox may Commingle UNEs with Wholesale Services or Tariffed access services obtained from Embarq as provided for in this Agreement. The foregoing is not intended to limit NuVox’s cross connect rights as set forth elsewhere in this Agreement.

42.3. Each UNE provided by Embarq to NuVox shall be at Parity with the quality of design, performance, features, functions, capabilities and other characteristics, that Embarq provides to itself, Embarq’s own subscribers, to a Embarq Affiliate or to any other Telecommunications Carrier requesting access to that UNE.

42.4. NuVox may use Network Elements provided under this Agreement for any Telecommunications Service subject to the conditions listed below.

42.4.1. Any combination of the following, where both are provided by Embarq, are subject to the EEL use restrictions in Section 54.9.3.



Such restrictions apply irrespective of the manner in which the loops and transport are combined

- 42.4.1.1. high capacity loops (DS1, DS3), to the extent available, and special access transport (a commingled facility); or
  - 42.4.1.2. special access channel terminations (DS1, DS3) and Dedicated Transport (DS1, DS3), to the extent available (a commingled facility), or
  - 42.4.1.3. high capacity loops (DS1, DS3) and Dedicated Transport (DS1, DS3).
- 42.4.2. NuVox may not access a UNE for the exclusive provision of Mobile Wireless Service. Facilities connecting Embarq's network and CMRS carriers' networks do not qualify as UNEs and will not be available to NuVox as UNEs.
- 42.4.3. NuVox may not order a UNE for the exclusive provision of Interexchange Services (i.e., interLATA or intraLATA long distance). Facilities connecting Embarq's network and interexchange carriers' networks used by the interexchange carrier to exclusively provide such services to end users do not qualify as UNEs and will not be available to NuVox as UNEs.
- 42.4.4. NuVox must use any UNE purchased from Embarq for the purpose of providing eligible telecommunications services (not exclusively Mobile Wireless Service or Interexchange Services). NuVox may use a UNE for the provision of Interexchange Services, Mobile Wireless Service, or Information Services, if NuVox is also providing an eligible telecommunications service over the same UNE. NuVox may not order or use a UNE for the sole purpose of selling it to another carrier for the exclusive provision of Mobile Wireless Service or Interexchange Services.
- 42.4.5. NuVox can use unbundled loops to provide xDSL services in accordance with this Agreement.

#### **43. BONA FIDE REQUEST PROCESS**

- 43.1. Embarq shall promptly consider and analyze NuVox requests for unbundled Network Elements included in this Agreement that are not currently developed by Embarq, network information that is reasonably required to determine what unbundled Network Elements it needs to serve a particular customer or development of and changes to Embarq work processes related to ordering, provisioning or installation of unbundled Network Elements with the submission of a Bona Fide Request (“BFR”) hereunder.
- 43.2. A BFR shall be submitted in writing on the Embarq Standard BFR Form and shall include a clear technical description of each request.
- 43.3. NuVox may cancel a BFR at any time, but shall pay all reasonable and demonstrable costs of processing and/or implementing the BFR up to the date of cancellation.
- 43.4. Within ten (10) calendar days of its receipt, the Embarq shall acknowledge receipt of the BFR.
- 43.5. Except under extraordinary circumstances, within thirty (30) calendar days of its receipt of a BFR, the Embarq shall provide to NuVox a preliminary analysis, including reasonable estimate of cost, of such BFR.
- 43.6. Upon receipt of the preliminary analysis, NuVox shall, within thirty (30) calendar days, notify Embarq, in writing, of its intent to proceed or not to proceed.
- 43.7. Embarq shall promptly proceed with the BFR upon receipt of written authorization from NuVox. When it receives such authorization, Embarq shall promptly develop the requested services, determine their availability, calculate the applicable prices and establish installation intervals.
- 43.8. As soon as feasible, but not more than ninety (90) calendar days after its receipt of authorization to proceed with developing the BFR, Embarq shall provide to NuVox a BFR Quote which will include, at a minimum, a description of each service, the availability, the applicable rates and the installation intervals.
- 43.9. Within thirty (30) calendar days of its receipt of the BFR Quote, NuVox must either confirm, in writing, its order for the BFR pursuant to the BFR Quote or if a

disagreement arises, seek resolution of the dispute under the Dispute Resolution procedures in Part B of this Agreement.

- 43.10. If a Party to a BFR believes that the other Party is not requesting, negotiating or processing the BFR in good faith, or disputes a determination, or price or cost quote, such Party may seek resolution of the dispute pursuant to the Dispute Resolution provisions in Part B of this Agreement.

#### **44. INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS PRICING**

- 44.1. Individual Case Basis (ICB) pricing will be provided by Embarq upon request from NuVox for customer specific rates or terms for network services and features for UNEs that are not otherwise provided for in this Agreement.
- 44.2. Embarq will process ICB Pricing requests upon receipt from NuVox. Embarq will provide NuVox a price quote within thirty (30) business days from the receipt of the request. Price quote intervals may vary depending upon the complexity of the request but shall not exceed thirty (30) business days from the receipt of the request.

#### **45. NETWORK INTERFACE DEVICE**

- 45.1. Embarq will offer unbundled access to the network interface device element (NID). The NID is defined as any means of interconnection of end-user customer premises wiring to an incumbent LEC's distribution plant, such as a cross connect device used for that purpose. This includes all features, functions, and capabilities of the facilities used to connect the loop to end-user customer premises wiring, regardless of the specific mechanical design.
- 45.2. The NID may be used to establish the network demarcation point between a LEC (ILEC/CLEC) and its subscriber. The NID provides a protective ground connection, protection against lightning and other high voltage surges and is capable of terminating cables such as twisted pair cable.
- 45.3. NuVox may connect its NID to Embarq's NID; may connect an unbundled loop to its NID; or may connect its own Loop to Embarq's NID. Embarq will provide one NID termination with each loop. If additional NID terminations are required, NuVox may request them pursuant to the process detailed in the Bona Fide Request Section herein.

- 45.4. Embarq will provide NuVox with information that will enable their technician to locate end user inside wiring at NIDs terminating multiple subscribers. Embarq will dispatch a technician and tag the wiring at NuVox's request. In such cases the charges specified in Table One will apply.
- 45.5. Embarq will not provide specialized (Embarq non-standard) NIDS.
- 45.6. The Embarq NID shall provide a clean, accessible point of connection for the inside wiring and for the distribution media and/or cross connect to NuVox's NID and shall maintain a connection to ground that meets applicable industry standards. Each Party shall ground its NID independently of the other party's NID.
- 45.7. When requested, Embarq will provide NIDs separately from loops for a separate price as shown in Table 1. A NID will be provided with each unbundled loop and is included in the loop pricing shown in Table 1.

#### **46. LOOP**

- 46.1. Embarq will provide NuVox access to Local Loops as defined in Part A including Copper Loops, DS1 Loops, DS3 Loops, Hybrid Loops, FTTC Loops and FTTH Loops. The following section includes the terms and conditions for Copper Loops, DS1 Loops, DS3 Loops, Hybrid Loops, FTTC Loops and FTTH Loops. Terms and conditions for making any network modifications resulting from NuVox's request for Local Loops are contained in Section 55.
- 46.2. At NuVox's request, and if Technically Feasible, Embarq will test and report trouble on conditioned loops for all of the line's features, functions, and capabilities, and will not restrict its testing to voice-transmission only. Testing shall include Basic Testing and Cooperative Testing. Optional Cooperative Testing and Joint Testing are performed only at NuVox's request. To the extent NuVox requests testing that would require Embarq to purchase new equipment, establish new procedures, or make systems modifications, NuVox will compensate Embarq for costs incurred to provide such testing. Request for additional testing must be submitted pursuant to the BFR Process in section 43.
  - 46.2.1. Basic Testing shall include simple metallic measurements only, performed by accessing the loop through the voice Switch. Basic Testing does not include cooperative or joint testing efforts that require

Embarq's technician to work jointly with NuVox's staff ("Cooperative Testing" or "Joint Testing").

- 46.2.2. Cooperative testing is provided on service order activity only and will be provided by Embarq at NuVox's expense. Embarq technicians will try to contact NuVox's representative at its Network Operations Center using the NuVox provided toll free number at the conclusion of installation. If NuVox does not respond within 3 minutes, Embarq may, in its sole discretion, abandon the test and NuVox will be charged for the test.
- 46.2.3. Joint Testing is provided on maintenance activity only and will be provided by Embarq at NuVox's expense, when requested. Embarq technicians will try to contact NuVox's representative to initiate Joint Testing after completing the requested activity. If NuVox does not respond within 3 minutes, Embarq may, in its sole discretion, abandon the test and NuVox will be charged for the test. Loops involving multiplexing prohibit the reading of a short.
- 46.2.4. Embarq will charge NuVox at the rates set out on Table One, when the location of the trouble on a NuVox-reported ticket is determined to be in NuVox's network or on NuVox end user's side of the Demarcation Point.
- 46.2.5. Embarq will perform completion tests for DS1 loops at Parity Tests include, but are not limited to, slope, longitudinal balance, BERT, insertion loss and wideboard noise.

#### 46.3. Analog Loop Capabilities

- 46.3.1. Analog loops facilitate the transmission of voice grade signals in the 300-3000 Hz range and terminate in a 2-wire or 4-wire electrical interface at NuVox's end user's premises. NuVox shall not install equipment on analog Loops that exceeds the specified bandwidth.
- 46.3.2. Embarq will provide analog Loops as Copper Loops, Hybrid Loops, and where required, FTTH Loops and FTTC Loops, based on available facilities.

#### 46.4. Digital Loops

- 46.4.1. Embarq will provide digital Loops on the basis of the service that will be provisioned over the Loop. Digital Loops are Copper Loops over which NuVox may deploy advanced services. Deployment of advanced services over digital loops by NuVox will be consistent with the terms and conditions contained in Section 46.8. On digital Loops, Embarq will only provide electrical continuity and line balance. Digital Loops do not include DS1 Loops or DS3 Loops.
- 46.4.2. Embarq shall employ industry accepted standards and practices to maximize binder group efficiency through analyzing the interference potential of each loop in a binder group, assigning an aggregate interference limit to the binder group, and then adding loops to the binder group until that limit is met. Disputes regarding the standards and practices employed in this regard shall be resolved through the Dispute Resolution Process set forth in Part B of this Agreement.
- 46.4.3. Reverse ADSL Loops. If a NuVox's ADSL Transmission Unit (including those integrated into DSLAMs) is attached to Embarq's Network and if an ADSL Copper Loop should start at an outside location, and is looped through a host or remote, and then to the subscriber, the copper plant from the outside location to the Embarq host or remote central office must be a facility dedicated to ADSL transmission only and not part of Embarq's regular feeder or distribution plant.

#### 46.5. Non-Standard Digital Loops

- 46.5.1. If NuVox requests a digital Loop, for which the effective loop length exceeds the xDSL standard of 18 kft (subject to gauge design used in an area), Embarq will only provide a Non-Standard Digital Loop. Additional non-recurring charges for conditioning will apply. Non-Standard Digital Loops will not be subject to performance measurements or technical specifications, however, all of the SMC requirements set forth in Section 46.4 are applicable.

#### 46.6. DS1 Loops

46.6.1. Subject to the cap in Section 46.6.2, Embarq will provide NuVox nondiscriminatory access to a DS1 Loop on an unbundled basis to any building not served by a Wire Center with at least 60,000 Business Lines and at least four Fiber-based Collocators determined consistent with FCC rules. As provided for herein, once a Wire Center exceeds both of these thresholds, no future DS1 loop unbundling will be required in that wire center. DS1 loops include, but are not limited to, two-wire and four-wire Copper Loops capable of providing high-bit rate digital subscriber line services, including T1 services. The Wire Centers that meet these requirements as of the date of this Agreement are listed on Exhibit A.

46.6.2. NuVox may obtain a maximum of ten unbundled DS1 loops to any single building in which DS1 loops are available as unbundled loops. If NuVox has more than ten DS1 loops to a single building, NuVox will transition any DS1 loops in excess of ten to another service within 90 days.

46.6.3. Any DS1 loop UNEs that NuVox leased from Embarq as of 3/11/05, but which Embarq is not obligated to unbundle pursuant to Sections 46.6.1 and 46.6.2, must be converted to an alternative service arrangement within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement. Any service provided by Embarq to NuVox over such DS1 Loops after 3/11/05 and prior to such conversion shall be billed at applicable rates for comparable access services.

46.6.3.1. If NuVox fails to convert the DS1 Loops within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement, Embarq will convert the DS1 Loops to comparable access services at applicable rates. Embarq will assess the conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox. Embarq will issue a credit to NuVox for the service order/conversion charge in Table One for conversion orders submitted prior to 12/11/05.

46.6.3.2. If NuVox has ordered new UNE DS1 Loop in Wire Centers

identified on Exhibit A since 3/11/05, those UNEs will be converted to comparable access services and the applicable rates for such comparable access services will apply back to 12/11/05.

46.6.4. Where Embarq is not required to provide unbundled DS1 loops pursuant to Sections 46.6.1 and 46.6.2, NuVox may not obtain new DS1 loops as UNEs.

46.6.5. If Embarq identifies Wire Centers in addition to those listed on Exhibit A that exceed the DS1 Loop threshold, Embarq will provide NuVox notice in accordance with the notice provisions of this Agreement. NuVox shall not be able to order new DS1 loops for the identified wire centers after 90 days have elapsed from the date of the notice, subject to the Dispute Resolution section of this Agreement. If any carrier has disputed a wire center designation and the dispute was resolved by the Commission, the parties will abide by the Commission's decision. Any DS1 loops leased from Embarq within an identified Wire Center on the date of the notice shall be available for a 12-month period from the date of the notice at a rate equal that is 115% of rate NuVox paid on the date of the notice.

46.6.5.1. NuVox must submit the necessary orders to convert these UNEs to an alternative service arrangement within twelve months of the above notice date. By the end of the twelve month period, NuVox must have transitioned the UNEs to alternative facilities or arrangements. If NuVox fails to submit the necessary orders before the end of the twelve month period, Embarq will convert the DS1 Loops to comparable Access Services. Embarq will assess the conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox.

#### 46.7. DS3 Loops

46.7.1. Subject to the cap described in Section 46.7.2, Embarq shall provide NuVox with nondiscriminatory access to a DS3 loop on an unbundled basis to any building not served by a Wire Center with at least 38,000



Business Lines and at least four Fiber-based Collocators. Once a Wire Center exceeds both of these thresholds, no future DS3 loop unbundling will be required in that Wire Center. The Wire Centers that meet these requirements as of the date of this Agreement are listed on Exhibit A.

46.7.2. NuVox may obtain a maximum of a single unbundled DS3 loop to any single building in which DS3 loops are available as unbundled loops.

46.7.3. Any DS3 loop UNEs that NuVox leased from Embarq as of 3/11/05, but which Embarq is not obligated to unbundle pursuant to Sections 46.7.1 and 46.7.2, must be converted to an alternative service arrangement within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement. Any service provided by Embarq to NuVox over such DS3 Loops after 3/11/05 and prior to such conversion shall be billed at applicable rates for comparable access services.

46.7.3.1. If NuVox fails to submit the necessary orders to convert the DS3 Loops within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement, Embarq will convert the DS3 Loops to comparable Access Services. Embarq will assess the conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox. Embarq will issue a credit to NuVox for the service order/conversion charge in Table One for conversion orders submitted prior to 12/11/05.

46.7.3.2. If NuVox has ordered new UNE DS3 Loop in Wire Centers identified on Exhibit A since 3/11/05, those UNEs will be converted to comparable access services and the applicable rates for such comparable access services will apply back to 3/11/05.

46.7.4. Where Embarq is not required to provide unbundled DS3 loops pursuant to Sections 46.7.1 and 46.7.2, NuVox may not obtain new DS3 loops as UNEs.

46.7.5. If Embarq identifies Wire Centers in addition to those listed on Exhibit A that exceed the threshold, Embarq will provide NuVox notice in accordance with the notice provisions of this Agreement. NuVox shall not be able to order new DS3 loops for the identified wire centers

after 90 days have elapsed from the date of the notice, subject to the Dispute Resolution section of this Agreement. If any carrier has disputed a wire center designation and the dispute was resolved by the Commission, the parties will abide by the Commission's decision. Any DS3 loops leased from Embarq on the date of the notice shall be available for a 12-month period from the date of the notice at a rate equal that is 115% of rate NuVox paid on the date of the notice.

46.7.5.1. NuVox must submit the necessary orders to convert these UNEs to an alternative service arrangement within twelve months of the above notice date. By the end of the twelve month period, NuVox must have transitioned the UNEs to alternative facilities or arrangements. If NuVox fails to submit the necessary orders by the end of the twelve month period, Embarq will convert the DS3 Loops to comparable Access Services at applicable rates. Embarq will assess the conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox.

46.8. Adherence to National Industry Standards

46.8.1. In providing advanced service loop technology, Embarq shall allow NuVox to deploy underlying technology that does not significantly interfere with other advanced services and analog circuit-switched voice band transmissions.

46.8.2. Until long term industry standards and practices can be established, a particular technology shall be presumed acceptable for deployment under certain circumstances. Deployment that is consistent with at least one of the following circumstances presumes that such loop technology will not significantly degrade the performance of other advanced services or impair traditional analog circuit-switched voice band services:

46.8.2.1. Complies with existing industry standards, including an industry-standard PSD mask, as well as modulation schemes and electrical characteristics;

46.8.2.2. Is approved by an industry standards body, the FCC, or any

state commission or;

46.8.2.3. Has been successfully deployed by any CLEC without significantly degrading the performance of other services.

- 46.8.3. Where NuVox seeks to establish that deployment of a technology falls within the presumption of acceptability under paragraph 46.8.2.3, the burden is on NuVox to demonstrate to the Commission that its proposed deployment meets the threshold for a presumption of acceptability and will not, in fact, significantly degrade the performance of other advanced services or traditional voice band services.
- 46.8.4. If a deployed technology significantly degrades other advanced services, the affected Party will notify the interfering party and give them a reasonable opportunity to correct the problem. The interfering Party will immediately stop any new deployment until the problem is resolved to mitigate disruption of other carrier services. If the affected parties are unable to resolve the problem, they will present factual evidence to the Commission for review and determination. If the Commission determines that the deployed technology is the cause of the interference, the deploying party will remedy the problem by reducing the number of existing customers utilizing the technology or by migrating them to another technology that does not disturb.
- 46.8.5. When the only degraded service itself is a known disturber and the newly deployed technology is presumed acceptable pursuant to Section 46.8.2, the degraded service shall not prevail against the newly deployed technology.
- 46.8.6. If Embarq denies a request by NuVox to deploy a technology, it will provide detailed, specific information providing the reasons for the rejection.
- 46.8.7. Parties agree to abide by national standards as developed by ANSI, i.e., Committee T1E1.4 group defining standards for loop technology. At the time the deployed technology is standardized by ANSI or the recognized standards body, NuVox will upgrade its equipment to the adopted standard within sixty (60) Days of the standard being adopted.

46.8.8. NuVox shall meet the power spectral density requirement given in the respective technical references listed below:

46.8.8.1. For Basic Rate ISDN: Telcordia TR-NWT-000393 Generic Requirements for ISDN Basic Access Digital Subscriber Lines.

46.8.8.2. For HDSL installations: Telcordia TA-NWT-001210 Generic Requirements for High-Bit-Rate Digital Subscriber Lines. Some fractional T1 derived products operating at 768 kbps may use the same standard.

46.8.8.3. For ADSL: ANSI T1.413-1998 (Issue 2 and subsequent revisions) Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) Metallic Interface.

46.8.8.4. As an alternative to Section 46.8.8.1, NuVox may meet the requirements given in ANSI document T1E1.4/2000-002R2 dated May 1, 2000. "Working Draft of Spectrum Management Standard," and subsequent revisions of this document.

46.9. Information to be Provided for Deployment of Advanced Services

46.9.1. Upon request, Embarq shall provide to NuVox:

46.9.1.1. information with respect to the spectrum management procedures and policies that Embarq uses in determining which services can be deployed;

46.9.1.2. information with respect to the rejection of NuVox's provision of advanced services, together with the specific reason for the rejection; and

46.9.1.3. information with respect to the number of loops using advanced services technology within the binder and type of technology deployed on those loops.

46.9.2. In connection with the provision of advanced services, NuVox shall provide to Embarq the following information on the type of technology that NuVox seeks to deploy where NuVox asserts that the technology it

seeks to deploy fits within a generic Power Spectral Density (PSD) mask:

- 46.9.2.1. information in writing (via the service order) regarding the Spectrum Management Class (SMC), as defined in the T1E1.4/2000-002R2 Draft, of the desired loop so that the loop and/or binder group may be engineered to meet the appropriate spectrum compatibility requirements;
- 46.9.2.2. the SMC (i.e. PSD mask) of the service it seeks to deploy, at the time of ordering and if NuVox requires a change in the SMC of a particular loop, NuVox shall notify Embarq in writing of the requested change in SMC (via a service order);
- 46.9.2.3. to the extent not previously provided NuVox must disclose to Embarq every SMC that NuVox has implemented on Embarq's facilities to permit effective Spectrum Management.

46.10. Hybrid Loops. Embarq will provide NuVox access to Hybrid Loops for the provision of narrowband services as provided below. Embarq is not required to provide unbundled access to the packet switched features, functions, and capabilities of its Hybrid Loops.

- 46.10.1. When NuVox requests access to a Hybrid Loop for the provision of narrowband services, Embarq will
  - 46.10.1.1. Provide non-discriminatory unbundled access to the entire Hybrid Loop capable of providing voice-grade service (*i.e.* equivalent to DS0 capacity) using time division multiplexing, or
  - 46.10.1.2. Provide non-discriminatory unbundled access to a spare Copper Loop serving that end-user.
  - 46.10.1.3. When NuVox requests access to a Hybrid Loop for the provision of broadband service, Embarq will provide NuVox, on an unbundled basis, with non-discriminatory access to the time division multiplexing features, functions, and capabilities of that Hybrid Loop, including DS1 and

DS3 capacity, to the extent available under this Agreement, to establish a transmission path between Embarq's Central Office and NuVox end user's premises. This access shall include access to all features, functions, and capabilities of the Hybrid Loop that are not used to transmit packetized information.

#### 46.11. Fiber Loops

##### 46.11.1. Dark Fiber Loops

- 46.11.1.1. Dark Fiber is an optical transmission facility without attached multiplexing, aggregation or other electronics. Dark Fiber is unactivated fiber optic cable, deployed by Embarq that has not been activated through connections to optronics that light it, and thereby render it capable of carrying communications.
- 46.11.1.2. Embarq is not required to provide NuVox with access to dark fiber loop on an unbundled basis.
- 46.11.1.3. For an 18-month period beginning on 3/11/05, any dark fiber loop UNEs that NuVox leases from Embarq as of 3/11/05 shall be available for lease from Embarq at the rate on Table One. The charges for dark fiber loop are subject to true-up retroactive to 3/5/05 regardless of when this Agreement is effective. NuVox may not obtain new dark fiber loops as UNEs.
- 46.11.1.4. NuVox must submit the necessary orders to convert these UNEs to an alternative service arrangement within eighteen months of 3/11/05. Embarq will issue a credit to NuVox for the service order/conversion charge in Table One for orders submitted prior to 12/11/05. By 9/10/06, NuVox must transition the UNEs to alternative facilities or arrangements. If NuVox fails to submit the necessary orders on or before 9/10/06, Embarq will convert the Dark Fiber Loops to comparable Access Services, if any, or disconnect the Dark Fiber facilities. Embarq will assess the

conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox.

#### 46.12. FTTH and FTTC Fiber Loops

46.12.1. New builds. Embarq will not provide non-discriminatory access to FTTH Loop or a FTTC Loop on an unbundled basis when Embarq has deployed a FTTH or FTTC Loop to an end-user customer premise that previously has not been served by any loop facility.

46.12.2. Overbuilds. Embarq will not provide non-discriminatory access to FTTH Loop or FTTC Loop on an unbundled basis when Embarq has deployed a FTTH Loop or FTTC Loop parallel to, or in replacement of, an existing loop facility to a predominantly residential multiple dwelling unit, except that:

46.12.2.1. Embarq will maintain the existing Copper Loop connected to a particular customer premises after deploying FTTH Loop or FTTC Loop and provide non-discriminatory access to the Copper Loop on an unbundled basis unless Embarq has retired the Copper Loop as set forth below.

46.12.2.2. If Embarq deploys FTTH Loop or FTTC Loop and maintains the existing Copper Loop, Embarq will restore the Copper Loop to serviceable condition upon request.

46.12.2.3. If Embarq deploys FTTH Loop or FTTC Loop and retires the existing Copper Loop, Embarq will provide non-discriminatory access to 64 kilobits per second transmission path capable of voice grade service over the FTTH Loop or FTTC Loop.

46.12.2.4. Prior to retiring Copper Loop or copper subloop that has been replaced with FTTH Loop or FTTC Loop Embarq will comply with the notice requirements set forth in 251(c)(5) of the Act, Sections 51.325 through 51.335 of the Code of Federal Regulations and applicable Commission requirements, if any, as well as any applicable state law requirements.

46.13. Tag and Label. At NuVox's request, Embarq will tag and label unbundled loops at the Network Interface Device (NID). Tag and label may be ordered simultaneously with the ordering of the Loop or as a separate service subsequent to the ordering of the Loop.

46.13.1. Embarq will include the following information on the label: order number, due date, NuVox name, and the circuit number.

46.13.2. NuVox must specify on the order form whether each Loop should be tagged and labeled.

46.13.3. The rates for Loop tag and label and related services are set forth on Table One. A trip charge may be billed in addition to the Tag and Label charges.

#### **47. SUBLOOPS**

47.1. Embarq will offer unbundled access to copper subloops and subloops for access to multiunit premises wiring. Embarq will consider all requests for access to subloops through the ICB process due to the wide variety of interconnections available and the lack of standards. A written response will be provided to NuVox covering the interconnection time intervals, prices and other information based on the ICB process as set forth in this Agreement.

47.2. Embarq is not required to provide NuVox access to dark fiber subloops.

47.3. Copper Subloops. Embarq will make available access to copper subloops on an unbundled basis. A copper subloop is a portion of a Copper Loop, or Hybrid Loop, and is comprised entirely of copper wire or copper cable that acts as a transmission facility between any accessible terminal in Embarq's outside plant, including inside wire owned or controlled by Embarq, and the end-user customer premises. A copper subloop can also include intermediate devices, such as repeaters, used to establish the transmission path. Copper subloops can be used by NuVox to provide voice-grade services as well as digital subscriber line services. Access to copper subloops is subject to the collocation provisions of this Agreement, provided however that Embarq is required to provide access to subloops in multiunit premises without requiring collocation. Copper subloop consists of the distribution portion of the Copper Loop. Embarq is not obligated to offer feeder loop plant as a stand-alone UNE.



- 47.3.1. An accessible terminal is any point on the loop where technicians can access a copper wire within the cable without removing a splice case. Such points include, but are not limited to, a pole or pedestal, the serving area interface, the network interface device, the minimum point of entry, any remote terminal, and the feeder/distribution interface.
- 47.4. Multiunit premises wiring. Embarq will make available to NuVox access to subloops for access to multiunit premises wiring on an unbundled basis. The subloop for access to multiunit premises wiring is defined as any portion of the loop that it is technically feasible to access at a terminal in the incumbent LEC's outside plant at or near a multiunit premises, including inside wire. Inside wire is wire owned or controlled by Embarq at a multiunit customer premises between the minimum point of entry and the point of demarcation.
  - 47.4.1. An accessible terminal is any point in Embarq's network where a technician can access the wire within the cable (e.g., via screw posts, terminals, patch panels) without removing a splice case to reach the wire within to access the wiring in the multiunit premises. Such points include, but are not limited to, a pole or pedestal, the NID, the minimum point of entry, the single point of interconnection, and the feeder/distribution interface.
  - 47.4.2. Upon request for interconnection at a multiunit premises where Embarq owns, controls, or leases wiring, Embarq will provide a single point of interconnection that is suitable for use by multiple carriers. If the Parties do not agree on appropriate terms, conditions and rates for the single point of interconnection to multiunit premises wiring either Party may invoke the Dispute Resolution provisions of this Agreement.
- 47.5. Embarq will not provide or maintain inside wire in situations where it reasonably determines there are health or safety concerns in doing so; provided that Embarq will deny access on such grounds only when it denies such access to itself or its affiliates on such grounds.
- 47.6. Deployment of advanced services by NuVox over subloops will be in accordance with the terms included in 46.8 and 46.9 of this section. Embarq shall provide a

requesting telecommunications carrier with non-discriminatory access to the subloop for access to multiunit premises wiring on an unbundled basis regardless of the capacity level or type of loop that the requesting carrier seeks to provision for its customer.

- 47.7. Reverse ADSL Loops. If a NuVox's ADSL Transmission Unit (including those integrated into DSLAMs) is attached to Embarq's Network and if an ADSL Copper Loop should start at an outside location, and is looped through a host or remote, and then to the subscriber, the copper plant from the outside location to the Embarq host or remote central office must be a facility dedicated to ADSL transmission only and not part of Embarq's regular feeder or distribution plant.

#### **48. OPERATIONS SUPPORT SYSTEMS (OSS)**

- 48.1. Embarq will offer unbundled access to Embarq's operations support systems to the extent technically feasible in a non-discriminatory manner at Parity. OSS consists of pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair, and billing functions supported by Embarq's databases and information. The OSS element includes access to all loop qualification information contained in Embarq's databases or other records, including information on whether a particular loop is capable of providing advanced services. Separate additional charges for OSS access, if any, are set forth in Table One unless pursuant to a BFR or an ICB.

#### **49. LOOP MAKE-UP INFORMATION**

- 49.1. Embarq shall make available Loop Make-Up Information in a non-discriminatory manner at Parity with the data and access it gives itself and other NuVoxs, including affiliates. The charges for Loop Make-Up Information are set forth in Table One to this Agreement.
- 49.2. Information provided to NuVox will not be filtered or digested in a manner that would affect NuVox's ability to qualify the loop for advanced services.
- 49.3. Embarq shall provide Loop Make-Up Information based on the individual telephone number or address of an end-user in a particular wire center or NXX code. Loop Make-Up Information requests will be rejected if the service address is not found within existing serving address information, if the telephone number

provided is not a working number or if the POI identified is not a POI where the requesting NuVox connects to the Embarq LTD network.

- 49.4. Errors identified in validation of the Loop Make-Up Information inquiry order will be returned to NuVox.
- 49.5. Embarq may provide the requested Loop Make-Up Information to NuVox in whatever manner Embarq would provide to their own internal personnel, without jeopardizing the integrity of proprietary information (i.e. - fax, intranet inquiry, document delivery, etc.). If the data is provided via fax, NuVox must provide a unique fax number used solely for the receipt of Loop Make-Up Information.
- 49.6. If NuVox does not order Loop Make-Up Information prior to placing an order for a loop for the purpose of provisioning of an advanced service and the advanced service cannot be successfully implemented on that loop, NuVox agrees that:
  - 49.6.1. NuVox will be charged a Trouble Isolation Charge to determine the cause of the failure;
  - 49.6.2. If Embarq undertakes Loop Make-Up Information activity to determine the reason for such failure, NuVox will be charged a Loop Make-Up Information Charge; and
  - 49.6.3. If Embarq undertakes Conditioning activity for a particular loop to provide for the successful installation of advanced services, NuVox will pay applicable conditioning charges as set forth in Table One pursuant to Section 55.3 of this Agreement.

## **50. LOCAL CIRCUIT SWITCHING**

- 50.1. Local Switching is not available under this Agreement.

## **51. DEDICATED TRANSPORT**

- 51.1. Embarq shall provide NuVox with nondiscriminatory access to dedicated transport on an unbundled basis, as set forth in this Agreement. A “route” is a transmission path between one of Embarq’s Wire Centers or switches and another of Embarq’s Wire Centers or switches. A route between two points (*e.g.*, Wire Center or switch “A” and Wire Center or switch “Z”) may pass through one or more intermediate wire centers or switches (*e.g.*, Wire Center or switch “X”).

Transmission paths between identical end points (e.g., Wire Center or switch “A” and Wire Center or switch “Z”) are the same “route,” irrespective of whether they pass through the same intermediate Wire Centers or switches, if any.

- 51.1.1. Embarq is not obligated to provide a requesting carrier with unbundled access to dedicated transport that does not connect a pair of Embarq Wire Centers (i.e. entrance facilities). Further, Embarq is not obligated to provide DSO or OC-N and above Dedicated Transport facilities as a UNE.
- 51.2. Dedicated DS1 transport shall be made available to NuVox on an unbundled basis as set forth below. Dedicated DS1 transport consists of Embarq interoffice transmission facilities that have a total digital signal speed of 1.544 megabytes per second and are dedicated to a particular customer or carrier.
  - 51.2.1. Embarq shall unbundle DS1 transport between any pair of Embarq Wire Centers except where, through application of tier classifications defined in Part A, both wire centers defining the route are Tier 1 Wire Centers. As such, Embarq will unbundle DS1 transport if a Wire Center at either end of a requested route is *not* a Tier 1 Wire Center, or if *neither* is a Tier 1 Wire Center.
  - 51.2.2. NuVox may obtain a maximum of ten unbundled DS1 dedicated transport circuits on each route where DS1 dedicated transport is available on an unbundled basis.
  - 51.2.3. Any DS1 dedicated transport UNE that NuVox leased from Embarq as of 3/11/05, but which Embarq is not obligated to unbundle pursuant to Sections 51.2.1 and 51.2.2, must be converted to an alternative service arrangement within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement. Any service provided by Embarq to NuVox over such DS1 dedicated transport after 3/11/05 and prior to such conversion shall be billed at applicable rates for comparable services as shown on Table One. Where Embarq is not required to provide unbundled DS1 transport pursuant Sections 51.2.1 and 51.2.2, NuVox may not obtain new DS1 transport as unbundled Network Elements. If NuVox fails to submit the necessary orders to convert and complete the transition of these UNEs to an alternative service arrangement within 30 days of the

Effective Date of this Agreement, Embarq will convert the DS1 Dedicated Transport to comparable Access Services at applicable rates. Embarq will assess the conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox. Embarq will issue a credit to NuVox for the service order/conversion charge in Table One for orders submitted prior to 12/11/05.

51.2.3.1. If NuVox has ordered new UNE DS1 Dedicated Transport on routes identified on Exhibit A since 3/11/05, those UNEs will be converted to comparable access services and the applicable rates will apply back to 3/11/05.

51.2.4. If Embarq identifies routes in addition to those listed on Exhibit A that exceed the DS1 Dedicated Transport circuit threshold for a route, Embarq will provide NuVox notice in accordance with the notice provisions of this Agreement. NuVox shall not be able to order new DS1 Dedicated Transport for the identified routes after 90 days have elapsed from the date of the notice, subject to the Dispute Resolution section of this Agreement. If any carrier has disputed a Wire Center designation and the dispute was resolved by the Commission, the parties will abide by the Commission's decision. Any DS1 Dedicated Transport leased from Embarq within the identified route on the date of the notice shall be available for a 12-month period from the date of the notice at a rate equal that is 115% of rate NuVox paid on the date of the notice.

51.2.4.1. NuVox must submit the necessary orders to convert these UNEs to an alternative service arrangement within twelve months of the above notice date. Embarq will issue a credit to NuVox for the service/conversion charge in Table One for orders submitted prior to the twelve month period. By the end of the twelve month period, NuVox must have transitioned the UNEs to alternative facilities or arrangements. If NuVox fails to submit the necessary orders within the twelve month period, Embarq will convert the DS1 Dedicated Transport to comparable Access Services at applicable rates. Embarq will assess the

conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox.

51.3. Dedicated DS3 transport shall be made available to NuVox on an unbundled basis as set forth below. Dedicated DS3 transport consists of Embarq interoffice transmission facilities that have a total digital signal speed of 44.736 megabytes per second and are dedicated to a particular customer or carrier.

51.3.1. Embarq shall unbundle DS3 transport between any pair of Embarq Wire Centers except where, through application of tier classifications defined in this Agreement, both Wire Centers defining the route are either Tier 1 or Tier 2 wire centers. As such, Embarq will unbundle DS3 transport if a Wire Center on either end of a requested route is a Tier 3 Wire Center.

51.3.2. NuVox may obtain a maximum of twelve unbundled DS3 dedicated transport circuits on each route where DS3 dedicated transport is available on an unbundled basis.

51.3.3. Any DS3 dedicated transport UNE that NuVox leased from Embarq as 3/11/05 but which Embarq is not obligated to unbundle pursuant to sections 51.3.1 and 51.3.2, must be converted to an alternative service arrangement within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement. Any service provided by Embarq to NuVox over such DS3 dedicated transport after 3/11/05 and prior to such conversion shall be billed at applicable rates for comparable services as shown on Table One. Where Embarq is not required to provide unbundled DS3 transport pursuant to sections 51.3.1 and 51.3.2, NuVox may not obtain new DS3 transport as unbundled Network Elements. If NuVox fails to convert and complete the transition of these UNEs to an alternative service arrangement within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement, Embarq will convert the DS3 Dedicated Transport to comparable Access Services. Embarq will assess the conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox. Embarq will issue a credit to NuVox for the service order/conversion charge in Table One for orders submitted prior to 12/11/05.

- 51.3.3.1. If NuVox has ordered new UNE DS3 Dedicated Transport between Wire Centers identified on Exhibit A since 3/11/05, those UNEs will be converted to comparable access services and the applicable rates will apply back to 3/11/05.
- 51.3.4. If Embarq identifies routes in addition to those listed on Exhibit A that exceed the DS3 Dedicated Transport circuit threshold for a route, Embarq will provide NuVox notice in accordance with the notice provisions of this Agreement. NuVox shall not be able to order new DS3 Dedicated Transport for the identified routes after 90 days have elapsed from the date of the notice, subject to the Dispute Resolution section of this Agreement. If any carrier has disputed a Wire Center designation and the dispute was resolved by the Commission, the parties will abide by the Commission's decision. Any DS3 Dedicated Transport leased from Embarq within the identified route on the date of the notice shall be available for a 12-month period from the date of the notice at a rate equal that is 115% of rate NuVox paid on the date of the notice.
  - 51.3.4.1. NuVox must submit the necessary orders to convert these UNEs to an alternative service arrangement within twelve months of the above notice date. Embarq will issue a credit to NuVox for the service/conversion charge in Table One for orders submitted prior to the twelve month period. By the end of the twelve month period, NuVox must have transitioned the UNEs to alternative facilities or arrangements. If NuVox fails to submit the necessary orders before the end of twelve month period, Embarq will convert the DS3 Dedicated Transport to comparable Access Services at applicable rates. Embarq will assess the conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox.

#### 51.4. Technical Requirements for DS1 and DS3 Dedicated Transport

51.4.1. Where technologically feasible and available, Embarq shall offer Dedicated Transport consistent with the underlying technology as follows:

51.4.1.1. When Embarq provides Dedicated Transport, the entire designated transmission circuit (e.g., DS-1, DS-3) shall be dedicated to NuVox designated traffic.

51.4.1.2. Where Embarq has technology available, Embarq shall provide Dedicated Transport using currently available technologies including, but not limited to, DS1 and DS3 transport systems, SONET (or SDS) Bi-directional Line Switched Rings, SONET (or SDH) Unidirectional Path Switched Rings, and SONEfT (or SDS) point-to-point transport systems (including linear add-drop systems), at all available transmission bit rates.

#### 51.5. Dedicated Dark Fiber Transport

##### 51.5.1. General Rules and Definition

51.5.1.1. Dark Fiber is an optical transmission facility without attached multiplexing, aggregation or other electronics. Dark Fiber is unactivated fiber optic cable, deployed by Embarq, that has not been activated through connections to optronics that light it, and thereby render it capable of carrying communications.

51.5.1.2. Embarq will unbundle Dark Fiber for Dedicated Transport as set forth in this Agreement and as follows:

51.5.1.2.1. Embarq shall unbundle dark fiber transport between any pair of Embarq Wire Centers except where both wire centers defining the route are either Tier 1 or Tier 2 Wire Centers. Embarq will unbundle dark fiber transport if a Wire Center on either end of a requested route is a Tier 3 Wire Center.



- 51.5.1.2.2. Beginning on 3/11/05 and for an 18-month period, any dark fiber transport UNE that NuVox leases from Embarq, where Embarq is not obligated to provide unbundled dark fiber transport, shall be available at the rates on Table One. NuVox will true-up the rates paid for dark fiber dedicated transport back to 3/11/05. Where Embarq is not required to provide unbundled dark fiber transport, NuVox may not obtain new dark fiber transport as a UNE.
- 51.5.1.2.3. NuVox must submit the necessary orders to convert these UNEs to an alternative service arrangement within eighteen months of 3/11/05. Embarq will issue a credit to NuVox for the service order/conversion charge in Table One for orders submitted prior to 6/11/06. By 9/10/06, NuVox must have transitioned the UNEs to alternative facilities or arrangements. If NuVox fails to submit the necessary orders before 9/10/06, Embarq will convert the Dark Fiber Dedicated Transport to comparable Access Services, if available, or disconnect the Dark Fiber facilities. Embarq will assess the conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox.
- 51.5.1.3. If Embarq identifies routes in addition to those listed on Exhibit A that exceed the threshold, Embarq will provide NuVox notice in accordance with the notice provisions of this Agreement. NuVox shall not be able to order new Dark Fiber Dedicated Transport for the identified routes after 90 days have elapsed from the date of the notice, subject to the Dispute Resolution section of this Agreement. If any carrier has disputed a Wire Center

designation and the dispute was resolved by the Commission, the parties will abide by the Commission's decision. Any Dark Fiber Dedicated Transport leased from Embarq within the identified route on the date of the notice shall be available for a 12-month period from the date of the notice at a rate equal that is 115% of rate NuVox paid on the date of the notice.

51.5.1.3.1. NuVox must submit the necessary orders to convert these UNEs to an alternative service arrangement within twelve months of the above notice date. By the end of the twelve month period, NuVox must have transitioned the UNEs to alternative facilities or arrangements. If NuVox fails to submit the necessary orders, Embarq will convert the Dark Fiber Dedicated Transport to comparable Access Services, if available, or disconnect the Dark Fiber facilities. Embarq will assess the conversion charge and a management fee for the work performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox.

#### 51.5.2. Fiber Availability

51.5.2.1. Spare fibers in a sheath are not considered available if Embarq has plans to put the fiber in use within the current year or the following year.

51.5.2.2. Embarq will also maintain fibers to facilitate maintenance, rearrangements and changes. Embarq will generally reserve 8% of fibers in a sheath for maintenance, subject to a minimum of four (4) fibers and a maximum of twelve (12) fibers.

51.5.2.3. Dark fiber requests will be handled on a first come, first served basis, based on the date the Dark Fiber Application (DFA) is received.

### 51.5.3. Interconnection Arrangements

- 51.5.3.1. Rules for gaining access to unbundled network elements apply to Dark Fiber. Virtual and physical collocation arrangements may be used by NuVox to locate the optical electronic equipment necessary to "light" leased Dark Fiber.
- 51.5.3.2. The CLEC that requests Dark Fiber must be able to connect to the Embarq fiber by means of fiber patch panel.
- 51.5.3.3. If fiber patch panels (FPPs) are not located within close enough proximity for a fiber patch cord, NuVox must submit an ICB request for the purchase and installation of intraoffice cabling.
- 51.5.3.4. Establishment of applicable fiber optic transmission equipment or intermediate repeaters needed to power the unbundled Dark Fiber in order to carry Telecommunications Services is the responsibility of NuVox.

### 51.5.4. Dark Fiber Application and Ordering Procedure

- 51.5.4.1. NuVox will submit a Dark Fiber Application (DFA) and application fee to request that Embarq determine the availability of Dark Fiber between the NuVox-specified locations. See Table One for application fee amount.
- 51.5.4.2. Within twenty (20) business days of receipt of DFA, Embarq will provide NuVox with a response regarding fiber availability and price.
  - 51.5.4.2.1. If Dark Fiber is not available, Embarq will notify NuVox of the DFA rejection.
  - 51.5.4.2.2. NuVox will follow the Dispute Resolution Process outlined in Part B of this Agreement if NuVox wishes to contest the rejection.
- 51.5.4.3. If Dark Fiber is available, NuVox will notify Embarq of

acceptance/rejection of Dark Fiber quote, via a firm order, within ten (10) business days of receipt of quote. Embarq will reserve the requested Dark Fiber for NuVox during these ten (10) business days. If, however, NuVox does not submit a firm order by the tenth (10th) business day, the fiber will no longer be reserved.

51.5.4.4. After ten (10) business days of receipt of the price quote, if NuVox has not accepted, NuVox must submit another DFA and application fee.

51.5.4.5. The NuVox will submit a firm order for Dark Fiber via an access service request (ASR).

51.5.4.6. By submitting the Dark Fiber firm order, NuVox agrees to pay quoted monthly recurring and non-recurring charges. See Table One for monthly recurring and non-recurring charges.

51.5.4.7. Due Date. Embarq will provision Dark Fiber twenty (20) Business Days after it receives firm order from NuVox. Billing of the monthly recurring and non-recurring charges will begin upon completion of Dark Fiber order. Embarq will allow NuVox to extend due date for firm order completion up to sixty (60) business days from the date Embarq receives firm order from NuVox. This extended due date must be specified on the firm order.

51.5.4.7.1. Billing of the monthly recurring and non-recurring charges will begin on the due date of the Dark Fiber order completion unless:

51.5.4.7.1.1. NuVox cancels firm order before the established due date. If this occurs, NuVox agrees to reimburse Embarq for all costs incurred to date; or

51.5.4.7.1.2. a third party submits firm

order for same Dark Fiber. If this occurs, NuVox must begin compensating Embarq for monthly recurring and non-recurring charges in order to reserve fiber, once Embarq is able to provide Dark Fiber to NuVox.

51.5.5. Maintenance and Testing

51.5.5.1. Embarq is only responsible for maintaining the facilities that it owns.

51.5.5.2. Embarq will conduct an end-to-end test of Dark Fiber after receipt of the firm order.

51.5.5.3. For meet point arrangements, Embarq will conduct cooperative testing with another carrier at NuVox's request. Additional rates and charges will apply.

51.5.5.4. Embarq does not guarantee that the transmission characteristics of the Dark Fiber will remain unchanged over time.

51.5.5.5. Embarq is not responsible for determining whether the transmission characteristics of the Dark Fiber will accommodate NuVox requirements.

51.5.6. Rules for Take Back

51.5.6.1. Embarq reserves the right to take back Dark Fiber to meet its carrier of last resort obligations.

51.5.6.2. Embarq will provide NuVox twelve (12) months written notice prior to taking back fiber.

51.5.6.3. If multiple NuVoxs have leased fiber within a single sheath, Embarq will take back the fiber that was the last to be leased.

51.5.6.4. Embarq will provide NuVox with alternative transport arrangements when Embarq takes back working fiber.

51.5.6.5. The Dispute Resolution Procedures found in Part B of this Agreement will be followed if NuVox wishes to contest Embarq's decision to take back its leased fiber.

## **52. COMMINGLING**

- 52.1. For the purpose of this section, wholesale services includes both services NuVox procures for resale pursuant to 251(c)(4) and exchange access service purchased from Embarq's access Tariffs.
- 52.2. NuVox may Commingle an unbundled network element or combination of UNEs with wholesale services purchased from Embarq. Upon request, Embarq will perform the work necessary to Commingle such UNE or UNE combinations with wholesale services purchased from Embarq. Each component of the commingled facility, either UNE or wholesale service, will be billed at the UNE or wholesale service rate for that component, plus applicable non-recurring charges. When a cross-connect is ordered in combination with a UNE loop, the cross-connect shall be billed at the appropriate UNE rate for such service. Embarq will not ratchet price individual components; that is, Embarq will not reflect a combination of UNE and wholesale rates for the same component. Wholesale service rates will be per the appropriate Tariff, including any applicable resale discounts pursuant to this Agreement. Embarq will provide NuVox access to EEL pursuant to Applicable Rules. Any request by NuVox for Embarq to provide combined UNEs that are not otherwise specifically provided for under this Agreement will be made in accordance with the BFR process described in Section 4 and made available to NuVox upon implementation by Embarq of the necessary operational modifications.

## **53. LINE SPLITTING**

### **53.1. Line Splitting**

- 53.1.1. Line Splitting is an arrangement between two carriers where one carrier provides the voice services and another carrier provides advanced services over an unbundled loop.
- 53.1.2. Whenever NuVox purchases the unbundled loop, NuVox shall control the entire loop spectrum.

- 53.1.3. Embarq shall institute procedures to allow NuVox or another carrier to order HFS data capabilities on a UNE loop.
- 53.2. When either NuVox or the other carrier orders Line Splitting using NuVox's OCN, NuVox will be billed the charges for the Line Splitting service. When the other carrier orders Line Splitting using its own OCN, Embarq will bill the other carrier for the Line Splitting charges.

#### **54. UNE COMBINATIONS**

- 54.1. NuVox may order UNEs either individually or in the combinations, including EEL as specifically set forth in this Section of the Agreement.
- 54.2. General Terms and Conditions
  - 54.2.1. Embarq will allow NuVox to order each UNE individually in order to permit NuVox to combine UNEs with other UNEs obtained from Embarq as provided for in this Agreement, or with network components provided by itself or by third parties to provide Telecommunications Services to its end users, if the requested combination is technically feasible and would not impair the ability of other carriers to obtain access to other unbundled network elements or to interconnect with Embarq's network or in combination with any other Network Elements that are currently combined in Embarq's Network. Upon request, Embarq will perform the functions necessary to combine UNEs, even if those elements are not ordinarily combined in Embarq's network, if the requested combination is technically feasible and would not impair the ability of other carriers to obtain access to other unbundled Network Elements or to interconnect with Embarq's network. NuVox will compensate Embarq the costs of work performed to combine the requested UNEs. Any request by NuVox for Embarq to provide combined UNEs that are not otherwise specifically provided for under this Agreement will be made in accordance with the BFR process described in Section 43 and made available to NuVox upon implementation by Embarq of the necessary operational modifications. To the extent that Embarq agrees to provide the UNE combination, and such combined facility is available for Embarq as a wholesale service or product, Embarq promptly shall provide such a product.

- 54.3. The provisioning of combinations, including EEL, is limited to existing facilities and Embarq is not obligated to construct additional facilities to accommodate any request by NuVox, subject to Section 55.
- 54.4. Specific Combinations and Pricing
- 54.4.1. In order to facilitate the provisioning of EELs, Embarq shall support the ordering and provisioning of this specific combination as set forth below.
- 54.5. Upon request Embarq shall convert a wholesale service, or group of wholesale services, to the equivalent unbundled network element, or combination of unbundled network elements, that is available to the requesting telecommunications carrier pursuant to Applicable Rules and as provided herein.
- 54.6. Upon NuVox's request, Embarq shall convert a wholesale service, or group of wholesale services, to the equivalent unbundled network element, or combination of unbundled network elements, that Embarq is obligated to make available to NuVox in accordance with the terms and conditions in this agreement as well as section 251(c)(3) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. Part 51. Embarq shall perform any conversion from a wholesale service or group of wholesale services to an unbundled network element or combination of unbundled network elements without adversely affecting the service quality perceived by NuVox's end-user customer. This does not mean that there will never be any period of planned service outage during each and every conversion from a wholesale service or group of wholesale services to an unbundled network element or combination of unbundled network elements. Conversions of complete services, requiring only billing changes and no physical changes to the facilities, will not normally cause service outages.
- 54.7. Except as agreed to by the parties, Embarq shall not impose any untariffed termination charges, or any disconnect fees, re-connect fees, or charges associated with establishing a service for the first time, in connection with any conversion between a wholesale service or group of wholesale services and an unbundled network element or combination of unbundled network elements. NuVox will be responsible for any applicable termination liabilities that result from requests to convert tariffed wholesale services to unbundled network elements. Standard



service order and conversion charges may apply as referenced in Part E and as set forth in Table One.

54.8. Except as provided in 47 C.F.R. § 51.318(b), Embarq shall provide access to unbundled network elements and combinations of unbundled network elements without regard to whether NuVox seeks access to the elements to establish a new circuit or to convert an existing circuit from a service to unbundled network elements.

54.9. Embarq Offers the Following Combinations of Network Elements

54.9.1. EEL is the combination of the NID, Loop, and Dedicated Transport network elements.

54.9.1.1. Embarq will offer the combination of unbundled loops with wholesale services and unbundled Dedicated Transport, where Embarq is required to provide unbundled Dedicated Transport and Local Loops, to provide EELs at the applicable recurring and non-recurring charges as specified in Table One for Loops, Dedicated Transport, and where applicable, Multiplexing. Recurring and nonrecurring charges, including but not limited to cross connect charges and Service Order Charges will apply and are set forth in Table One. Without intending to limit Embarq's offer to provide EELs and co-mingled EELs, Embarq will cross-connect unbundled 2 or 4-wire analog or 2-wire digital Loops to unbundled voice grade DS1 or DS3 Dedicated Transport facilities for NuVox's provision of circuit switched telephone exchange service to NuVox's end users.

54.9.1.2. Multiplexing shall be provided as necessary as part of Dedicated Transport.

54.9.2. In order to obtain the EEL combinations below, a requesting NuVox must provide certification that it satisfies the service eligibility criteria for each circuit as set forth below. For existing EELs, NuVox must recertify compliance with the EELs criteria within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement. NuVox must continue to be in compliance with the service eligibility criteria for as long as NuVox

continues to receive the services in this section. Embarq will offer the following EEL Combinations:

- 54.9.2.1. Unbundled DS1 Loop in combination with UNE DS1 Dedicated Transport.
- 54.9.2.2. Unbundled DS1 Loop commingled with dedicated DS1 transport wholesale service.
- 54.9.2.3. Unbundled DS1 Loop in combination with UNE DS3 Dedicated Transport.
- 54.9.2.4. Unbundled DS1 Loop commingled with dedicated DS3 transport wholesale service.
- 54.9.2.5. Unbundled DS3 Loop in combination with UNE DS3 Dedicated Transport.
- 54.9.2.6. Unbundled DS3 Loop commingled with dedicated DS3 transport wholesale service.
- 54.9.2.7. Unbundled DS1 Dedicated Transport commingled with DS1 channel termination.
- 54.9.2.8. Unbundled DS3 Dedicated Transport commingled with DS1 channel termination service.
- 54.9.2.9. Unbundled DS3 Dedicated Transport commingled with DS3 channel termination service.

#### 54.9.3. EEL Eligibility Criteria

- 54.9.3.1. NuVox must have state certification to provide local voice service in the area being served or, in the absence of a state certification requirement, NuVox must have complied with registration, tariffing, filing fee, or other regulatory requirements applicable to the provision of local voice service in the area served;
- 54.9.3.2. The following criteria must be satisfied for each combined circuit, including each DS1 circuit, each DS1 EEL, and each DS1-equivalent circuit on a DS3 EEL:

- 54.9.3.2.1. Each circuit to be provided to each NuVox customer must be assigned one local number prior to the provision of service over the circuit;
- 54.9.3.2.2. Each DS1-equivalent circuit on a DS3 EEL must have its own local number assignment, so that each DS3 has up to 28 local voice numbers assigned to it;
- 54.9.3.2.3. Each circuit to be provided to each customer must provide 911 or E911 capability prior to the provision of service over the circuit;
- 54.9.3.2.4. Each circuit to be provided to each customer must terminate into a collocation that meets one of the following requirements:
  - 54.9.3.2.4.1. a collocation established pursuant to section 251(c)(6) of the Act and located at Embarq's premises within the same LATA as NuVox's customer's premises, when Embarq is not the collocator; or
  - 54.9.3.2.4.2. a collocation located at a third party's premises within the same LATA as the NuVox's customer's premises, when Embarq is the collocator.
- 54.9.3.2.5. For each 24 DS1 EELs or other facilities having equivalent capacity, NuVox must maintain at least one active DS1 local service interconnection trunk and NuVox is required to transmit the calling party's number in connection with calls exchanged over each trunk. One-way inbound trunks may be included as part of a legitimate interconnection arrangement. However, where NuVox does not

arrange for a meaningful exchange of traffic, which must include hands-offs of local voice calls that flow in both directions those arrangements cannot be attributed towards satisfaction of this criterion, and

54.9.3.2.6. Each circuit to be provided to each customer will be served by a switch capable of switching local voice traffic.

54.9.3.3. Embarq has the right, upon thirty (30) Days notice, to audit NuVox's compliance with the service eligibility criteria defined by the FCC and as set forth above. The notice shall state the cause that Embarq believes warrants the audit. Embarq will hire and pay for an independent auditor to perform the audit. NuVox will reimburse Embarq if the audit report concludes that NuVox materially failed to materially comply with the service eligibility criteria. Embarq may request one audit in a calendar year. In the instance of non-compliance, NuVox shall true-up any difference in payments, convert the non-compliant circuit to the appropriate service including any discounted rate for which NuVox may be eligible and make accurate payments going forward. These audit rights are in addition to Embarq's audit rights in Part B of this Agreement.

## **55. MODIFICATIONS TO EMBARQ'S EXISTING NETWORK**

### **55.1. Modifications to Unbundled Loop**

55.1.1. Embarq will make routine network modifications to unbundled loop facilities used by NuVox where the requested loop facility has already been constructed. Embarq will perform routine network modifications to unbundled loop facilities in a nondiscriminatory fashion, without regard to whether the loop facility being accessed was constructed on behalf, or in accordance with the specifications, of any carrier. NuVox will compensate Embarq for the costs of such routine network

modifications to unbundled loop facilities to the extent the costs are not recovered in the unbundled loop rates in accordance with Table One or Embarq will provide a price quote via the ICB process. Where Embarq would perform network modifications for its own benefit in the normal course of business due to market demand and such network modifications also meet a NuVox requirement, Embarq will not charge NuVox for the network modification.

55.1.1.1. In the case of unbundled loop facilities, a routine network modification is an activity that Embarq regularly undertakes for its own customers. Routine network modifications may include, but are not limited to, rearranging or splicing of cable; adding an equipment case; adding a doubler or repeater; adding a smart jack; installing a repeater shelf; adding a line card; deploying a new multiplexer or reconfiguring an existing multiplexer and attaching electronic and other equipment that Embarq ordinarily attaches to a DS1 Loop to activate such loop for its own customer. Routine network modifications may entail activities such as accessing manholes, deploying bucket trucks to reach aerial cable, and installing equipment casings. Routine network modifications do not include the construction of new loop facilities or the installation of new aerial or buried cable for NuVox.

55.1.1.2. Embarq is not obligated to build TDM capability into new packet-based networks or into existing packet-based networks that never had TDM capability. This includes packet-based networks that incorporate a packet to TDM format translation to connect to end user customer provided equipment.

55.1.1.3. Embarq shall not engineer the transmission capabilities of its network in a manner, or engage in any policy practice, or procedure, that disrupts or degrades access to a Local Loop or subloop, including the time division multiplexing-based features, functions, and capabilities of a Hybrid Loop for

which NuVox may obtain or has obtained access pursuant to 47 CFR 51.319.

## 55.2. Modifications to Dedicated Transport

55.2.1. Embarq will make routine network modifications to unbundled dedicated transport facilities used by NuVox where the requested Dedicated Transport facilities have already been constructed. Embarq will perform the routine network modifications to unbundled Dedicated Transport facilities in a nondiscriminatory fashion, without regard to whether the facility being accessed was constructed on behalf, or in accordance with the specifications, of any carrier. NuVox will compensate Embarq for the costs of such routine network modifications to unbundled Dedicated Transport facilities to the extent the costs are not recovered in the unbundled Dedicated Transport rates. Embarq will provide routine network modifications at the rates on Table One or Embarq will provide a price quote vis the ICB process. Where Embarq would perform network modifications for its own benefit in the normal course of business due to market demand and such network modifications also meet a NuVox requirement, Embarq will not charge NuVox for the network modification.

55.2.1.1. In the case of unbundled Dedicated Transport facilities, a routine network modification is an activity that Embarq regularly undertakes for its own customers. Routine network modifications may include, but are not limited to, rearranging or splicing of cable; adding an equipment case; adding a doubler or repeater; installing a repeater shelf; and deploying a new multiplexer or reconfiguring an existing multiplexer. Routine network modifications also include activities needed to enable NuVox to light a Dark Fiber transport facility. Routine network modifications may entail activities such as accessing manholes, deploying bucket trucks to reach aerial cable, and installing equipment casings. Routine network modifications do not include the installation of new aerial or buried cable for NuVox.

### 55.3. Loop Conditioning

55.3.1. Conditioned loops are loops from which excessive bridge taps, load coils, low-pass filters, range extenders, and similar devices have been removed to enable the delivery of high-speed switched wireline telecommunications capability, including DSL. Embarq will condition loops at NuVox's request and will assess charges for loop conditioning in accordance with the prices listed in Table One. Embarq recommends that NuVox utilize the Loop Make-Up process in Section 49 prior to submitting orders for loops intended for advanced services.

## **PART F - INTERCONNECTION**

### **56. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION TRUNK ARRANGEMENT**

56.1. The Parties shall reciprocally terminate Local Traffic and IntraLATA/InterLATA toll calls originating on the other Party's network as follows:

56.1.1. The Parties shall make available to each other two-way trunks for the reciprocal exchange of combined Local Traffic, and non-equal access IntraLATA toll traffic.

56.1.1.1. The Parties agree to use two-way trunks (one-way directionalized). The Parties shall transition all trunks from directionalized two-way trunks upon mutual agreement, absent engineering or billing issues.

56.1.2. Separate two-way trunks will be made available for the exchange of equal-access InterLATA or IntraLATA interexchange traffic.

56.1.3. Separate trunks will be utilized for connecting NuVox's switch to each 911/E911 tandem.

#### **56.2. Direct Interconnection Requirements**

56.2.1. Point of Interconnection. NuVox must establish a minimum of one POI within each LATA, at any technically feasible point, on Embarq's network. In addition, NuVox shall establish additional POIs under the following circumstances:

56.2.1.1. To the extent Embarq's network contains multiple tandems in the LATA, NuVox must establish a POI at each tandem where it wishes to exchange (i.e. receive or terminate) traffic with Embarq.

56.2.1.2. NuVox must establish a direct end office trunk at an Embarq end office when total traffic volumes exchanged between that particular Embarq end office and NuVox exceeds 8.9 million minutes of Local Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic per month for three consecutive months.



- 56.2.2. NuVox will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. Embarq will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. Each Party is financially responsible for transport on its side of the POI.
- 56.2.3. Each Party is financially responsible for transporting its originated traffic to the POI.
- 56.2.4. When the Parties choose to interconnect at a mid-span meet, NuVox and Embarq will jointly provision the facilities that connect the two networks. Embarq will be the “controlling carrier” for purposes of MECOD guidelines, as described in the joint implementation plan. Embarq will provide fifty percent (50%) of the facilities or to its exchange boundary, whichever is less. The construction of new facilities for a mid-span meet is only applicable when traffic is roughly balanced. Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, when the Parties interconnect using a mid-span meet, each Party will be financially responsible for the facilities on its side of the mid-span meet and will not bill the other Party for any portion of those facilities.
- 56.2.5. If third party (*i.e.* Competitive Access Provider or “CAP”) leased facilities are used for interconnection, the POI will be defined as the Embarq office in which the third party’s leased circuit terminates.
- 56.2.6. If NuVox elects to lease any portion of the transport facility from Embarq or if NuVox chooses to interconnect with Embarq using a meet-point arrangement (*i.e.* facilities jointly provisioned by Embarq and another LEC), NuVox will order those facilities that are wholly within Embarq’s serving territory from Embarq’s access tariff; provided however, that if NuVox is required by the terms of this agreement to interconnect at a Embarq end office, in addition to Embarq tandems, and if NuVox elects to purchase transport from Embarq to exchange 251(c)(5) traffic (non-ISP) traffic at such end office, NuVox may order such interconnection facilities at cost-based (*i.e.*, TELRIC) rates. Nothing in the paragraph should be deemed to supersede the proportionate cost recovery set forth in 47 CFR 51.709(b) with respect to Telecommunications (non-ISP bound) traffic.

### 56.3. Technical Requirements for Interconnection

#### 56.3.1. Interconnection at the Embarq Tandem

- 56.3.1.1. Interconnection to Embarq Tandem Switch(es) will provide NuVox local interconnection for local service purposes to the Embarq end offices and NXXs which subtend that tandem(s), where local trunking is provided, and access to the toll network.
- 56.3.1.2. Interconnection to a Embarq Tandem for transit purposes will provide access to telecommunications carriers which are connected to that Tandem Switch.
- 56.3.1.3. Where a Embarq Tandem Switch also provides End-Office Switch functions, interconnection to a Embarq tandem serving that exchange will also provide NuVox access to Embarq's end offices.

#### 56.3.2. Interconnection at the Embarq End Office

- 56.3.2.1. Interconnection to Embarq End Office Switch will provide NuVox local interconnection for local service purposes to the Embarq NXX codes served by that end office and any Embarq NXXs served by remotes that subtend those End Offices.

## 57. **INTERCARRIER COMPENSATION**

### 57.1. Compensation for Local Traffic Transport and Termination

- 57.1.1. The transport and termination charges for Local Traffic flowing through a POI shall be as follows:
  - 57.1.1.1. In a mid-span meet arrangement, when calls from NuVox are terminating on Embarq's network through the Embarq Tandem Switch, NuVox will pay Embarq a charge for Tandem Switching, common transport to the end office, and end-office termination.

- 57.1.1.2. When the POI is at the Embarq Tandem Switch, NuVox shall pay a charge for Tandem Switching, common transport to the end office and end-office termination.
- 57.1.1.3. Charges billed to Embarq by NuVox for the transport and termination of Local Traffic will be equal to those that Embarq assesses the NuVox for the same services. Where NuVox is interconnected at a Embarq tandem and Embarq delivers its traffic to NuVox directly from an end office, Embarq shall pay NuVox end office termination. Where NuVox is interconnected at an Embarq tandem and Embarq delivers its traffic to NuVox from the tandem and the NuVox switch serves a geographical area comparable to the area served by the Embarq tandem, Embarq shall pay NuVox for Tandem Switching, common transport, and end-office termination. If the NuVox switch serves a geographical area that is not comparable to the area served by the Embarq tandem, Embarq shall pay NuVox end-office termination.
- 57.1.1.4. To validate the geographic area NuVox must provide documentation supporting the following:
  - 57.1.1.4.1.1. that NuVox's switch serves a geographic area that is roughly the same size as the area served by the Embarq Tandem Switch;
  - 57.1.1.4.1.2. that NuVox has obtained NPA/NXX codes to serve the exchanges within the geographic area; and,
  - 57.1.1.4.1.3. that NuVox is serving the area using its own switch with its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and leased facilities connected to its collocation arrangements.
- 57.1.1.5. Where direct end office trunks are established, for

NuVox-originated calls, NuVox shall pay Embarq end-office termination. For Embarq originated traffic terminating to NuVox from that end office, compensation payable by Embarq shall be the same as that detailed in Section 57.1.1.3 above.

57.2. The rates to be charged for the exchange of Local Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic are set forth in Table One and shall be applied consistent with the provisions of Part F of this Agreement.

57.2.1. The Parties agree that by executing this Agreement and carrying out the intercarrier compensation rates, terms and conditions herein, neither Party waives any of its rights, and expressly reserves all of its rights, under the *Order on Remand and Report and Order*, FCC 01-131, CC Dockets No. 96-98 and 99-68, adopted April 18, 2001 (the "ISP Remand Order"), including but not limited to Embarq's option to invoke on a date specified by Embarq the FCC's ISP interim compensation regime, after which date ISP-bound traffic will be subject to the FCC's prescribed interim compensation regime including the terminating compensation rates, and other terms and conditions. NuVox agrees that on the date designated by ILEC, the Parties will begin billing Reciprocal Compensation to each other at the rates, terms and conditions specified in the FCC's ISP Remand Order as modified by the *Core Forbearance Order*, FCC 04-241, WC Docket No. 03-171, adopted October 8, 2004, unless the Parties are exchanging traffic (Local Traffic and/or ISP-Bound traffic) at Bill and Keep, such Bill and Keep arrangement shall continue.

57.3. Compensation for the termination of toll traffic and the origination of 800 traffic between the interconnecting parties shall be based on the applicable access charges in accordance with FCC and Commission Rules and Regulations and consistent with the provisions of Part F of this Agreement. If NuVox is acting as an IXC and a competitive local exchange carrier, NuVox must have a unique CIC for each type of service order. Specifically, NuVox must have two CICs, one that is used for ordering IXC facilities for interexchange toll traffic and one that is used to order facilities for local exchange traffic.

- 57.4. Calls terminated to end users physically located outside the local calling area in which their NPA/NXXs are homed (Virtual NXXs or VNXXs), are not local calls for purposes of intercarrier compensation and originating access charges shall apply. For NuVox or EMBARQ-originated traffic terminated to the other Party's Virtual NXXs, neither Party shall be obligated to pay reciprocal compensation, including any shared interconnection facility costs, for such traffic. Both Parties represent and warrant that they are not exchanging Virtual NXX traffic as of the effective date of this Agreement; however, if either Party should begin using Virtual NXXs, the Party using such VNXXs shall notify the other Party and the Parties shall negotiate a factor to determine the amount of traffic that will be presumed to be Virtual NXX traffic (subject to audit and modification, as necessary).
- 57.5. Voice over internet protocol ("VoIP") traffic that meets the following criteria is a telecommunications service and is subject to interstate and intrastate access charges payable by either Party to the same extent that telecommunications traffic is subject to interstate or intrastate access charges (*e.g.*, not Local Traffic):
- (1) uses ordinary customer premises equipment (CPE) with no enhanced functionality;
  - (2) originates and terminates on the public switched telephone network (PSTN); and
  - (3) undergoes no net protocol conversion and provides no enhanced functionality to end users due to the provider's use of IP technology.
- 57.6. The Parties disagree on the appropriate compensation for VoIP traffic that does not meet the above criteria. Both Parties reserve the right to bill for traffic and pursue compensation for traffic that does not meet the criteria above, including invoking the Dispute Resolution provisions of this Agreement. Neither Party waives its rights to participate and fully present its respective positions in any proceeding before the Commission, FCC or other authority with jurisdiction dealing with voice over internet protocol traffic.
- 57.7. A call placed on a non-local basis (*e.g.*, a toll call or 8yy call) to an ISP shall not be treated as ISP-Bound Traffic for compensation purposes. The Parties agree

that, to the extent such "non-Local" ISP calls are placed, that the rates, terms and conditions for IntraLATA and/or InterLATA calling shall apply, including but not limited to rating and routing according to the terminating parties' Exchange Access intrastate and/or interstate tariffs.

- 57.8. NuVox will update its Percent Local Usage (PLU) factor on a quarterly basis. NuVox will identify the PLU factor on each interconnection order to identify its "Local Traffic," as defined herein, for reciprocal compensation purposes. The current quarterly PLU factor shall control. Either Party may request the other's traffic study documentation of the PLU at any time to verify the factor, and may compare the documentation to studies developed by Embarq. Should the documentation indicate that the factor should be changed; the Parties agree that any changes will be retroactive up to one year. For non-local traffic, the Parties agree to exchange traffic and compensate one another based on the rates and elements included in each party's access tariffs. NuVox will transmit calling party number (CPN) as required by FCC rules (47 C.F.R. 64.1601).

57.8.1. To the extent technically feasible, each Party will transmit calling party number (CPN) for each call being terminated on the other's network. If the percentage of calls transmitted with CPN is greater than 90%, all calls exchanged without CPN will be billed as local or intrastate in proportion to the MOUs of calls exchanged with CPN. If the percentage of calls transmitted with CPN is less than 90%, all calls transmitted without CPN will be billed at intrastate access rates.

## **58. SIGNALING NETWORK INTERCONNECTION**

- 58.1. Embarq will offer interconnection to its signaling transfer points (STPs) for NuVox switches which connect to Embarq's STPs via "A" links or for NuVox's "B" or "D" links which are dedicated to the transport of signaling for local interconnection.
- 58.2. Signaling protocol. The parties will interconnect their networks using SS7 signaling where technically feasible and available as defined in FR 905 Telcordia Standards including ISDN User Part (ISUP) for trunk signaling and TCAP for CCS-based features in the interconnection of their networks. All Network Operations Forum (NOF) adopted standards shall be adhered to.

- 58.3. Standard interconnection facilities shall be Extended Superframe (ESF) with B8ZS line code. Where ESF/B8ZS is not available, NuVox will use other interconnection protocols on an interim basis until the standard ESF/B8ZS is available. Embarq will provide anticipated dates of availability for those areas not currently ESF/B8ZS compatible.
- 58.4. Where NuVox is unwilling to utilize an alternate interconnection protocol, NuVox will provide Embarq an initial forecast of 64 Kbps clear channel capability ("64K CCC") trunk quantities within thirty (30) Days of the Effective Date consistent with the forecasting agreements between the parties. Upon receipt of this forecast, the parties will begin joint planning for the engineering, procurement, and installation of the segregated 64K CCC Local Interconnection Trunk Groups, and the associated ESF facilities, for the sole purpose of transmitting 64K CCC data calls between NuVox and Embarq. Where additional equipment is required, such equipment would be obtained, engineered, and installed on the same basis and with the same intervals as any similar growth job for IXC, NuVox, or Embarq internal customer demand for 64K CCC trunks.
- 58.5. Signaling Systems
- 58.5.1. Signaling Link Transport
- 58.5.1.1. Signaling Link Transport is a set of two or four dedicated 56 Kbps transmission paths between NuVox-designated Signaling Points of Interconnection (SPOI) that provides appropriate physical diversity and a cross connect at a Embarq STP site.
- 58.5.1.2. Technical Requirements. Signaling Link transport shall consist of full duplex mode 56 Kbps transmission paths.
- 58.5.2. Signaling Transfer Points (STPs)
- 58.5.2.1. STPs provide functionality that enables the exchange of SS7 messages among and between switching elements, databases and third party signaling transfer points.
- 58.6. Technical Requirements. STPs provide interconnection to the functions of signaling networks or to third party SS7 networks connected to the Embarq SS7 network. These functions include:

- 58.6.1. Embarq local switching or Tandem Switching;
  - 58.6.2. Embarq Service Control Points (SCPs)/Databases if arranged for under separate agreements;
  - 58.6.3. Third-party local or Tandem Switching systems subject to any additional conditions or terms of the Third Party and
  - 58.6.4. Third party provider STPs subject to any additional conditions or terms of the Third Party.
- 58.7. Interface Requirements. Embarq shall provide the following STP options to connect NuVox or NuVox-designated local switching systems or STPs to the Embarq SS7 network:
- 58.7.1. An A-link interface from NuVox local switching systems; and
  - 58.7.2. B- or D-link interface from NuVox STPs.
  - 58.7.3. Each type of interface shall be provided by one or more sets (layers) of signaling links, as follows:
    - 58.7.3.1. An A-link layer shall consist of two links,
    - 58.7.3.2. A B- or D-link layer shall consist of four links,
- 58.8. Signaling Point of Interconnection (SPOI) for each link shall be located at a cross-connect element, such as a DSX-1, in the Central Office (CO) where the Embarq STP is located. Interface to Embarq's STP shall be the 56kb rate. The 56kb rate can be part of a larger facility, and NuVox shall pay multiplexing/demultiplexing and channel termination, plus mileage of any leased facility.

## **59. TRUNK FORECASTING**

- 59.1. NuVox shall provide forecasts for traffic utilization over trunk groups. For avoidance of doubt, any such forecasts shall be treated as Confidential Information pursuant to Section 14. Orders for trunks that exceed forecasted quantities for forecasted locations will be accommodated as facilities and/or equipment are available. Embarq shall make all reasonable efforts and cooperate in good faith to develop alternative solutions to accommodate orders when



facilities are not available. Company trunk forecast information must be provided by NuVox to Embarq at or prior to the initial Network implementation meeting between the Parties and any subsequent trunk implementation or augmentation call or meeting scheduled by the Embarq Account Manager. There will typically be an associated Local Interconnection POI Profile form with the NuVox Interconnection Trunk Forecast form. Both forms compliment each other and must be returned simultaneously to the appropriate Wholesale Markets Field sales Manager for processing. The initial trunk forecast meeting should take place soon after the first implementation meeting. The updated forecasts shall project trunk gain/loss on a monthly basis for the forecast period, and shall include:

- 59.1.1. Forecasted trunk quantities (which include baseline data that reflect actual Tandem and end office Local Interconnection and meet point trunks and Tandem-subtending Local Interconnection end office equivalent trunk requirements) for no more than two years (current plus one year);
- 59.1.2. The use of Common Language Location Identifier (CLLI-MSG), which are described in Telcordia documents BR 795-100-100 and BR 795-400-100;
- 59.1.3. Description of major network projects that affect the other Party will be provided in the semi-annual forecasts, to the extent known. Major network projects include but are not limited to trunking or network rearrangements, shifts in anticipated traffic patterns, or other activities by NuVox that are reflected by a significant increase or decrease in trunking demand for the following forecasting period.
- 59.1.4. Parties shall meet to review and reconcile the forecasts if forecasts vary significantly.
- 59.2. NuVox shall provide an updated trunk forecast when ordering or requesting additional trunks from Embarq anytime after the initial trunk implementation.
- 59.3. Each Party shall provide a specified point of contact for planning forecasting and trunk servicing purposes.

- 59.4. Trunking can be established to Tandems or end offices or a combination of both via either one-way or two-way trunks. Trunking will be at the DS-0, DS-1, DS-3/OC-3 level, or higher, as agreed upon by NuVox and Embarq.
- 59.5. The parties agree to abide by the following if a forecast cannot be agreed to: local interconnection trunk groups will be provisioned to the higher forecast. A blocking standard of one percent (1%) during the average busy hour shall be maintained. Should the Parties not agree upon the forecast, and the Parties engineer facilities at the higher forecast, the Parties agree to abide by the following:
- 59.5.1. In the event that NuVox over-forecasts its trunking requirements by twenty percent (20%) or more, and Embarq acts upon this forecast to its detriment, Embarq may recoup any actual and reasonable expense it incurs.
- 59.5.2. The calculation of the twenty percent (20%) over-forecast will be based on the number of DS-1 equivalents for the total traffic volume to Embarq.
- 59.5.3. Expenses will only be recouped for non-recoverable facilities that cannot otherwise be used at any time within twelve (12) months after the initial installation for another purpose including but not limited to: other traffic growth between the Parties, internal use, or use with another party.
- 59.6. Grade of Service. An overall blocking standard of one percent (1%) during the average busy hour, as defined by each Party's standards, for final trunk groups between a NuVox end office and a Embarq access Tandem carrying meet point traffic shall be maintained. All other Tandem trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (1%). Direct end office trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (1%).
- 59.7. Trunk Servicing. Orders between the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect trunks shall be processed by use of an ASR, RASR or other industry standard format as specified by Embarq for trunk ordering.

## **60. NETWORK MANAGEMENT**

- 60.1. Protective Protocols. Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps on traffic toward each other's network, when required to protect the public switched network from congestion due to facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload. NuVox and Embarq will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.
- 60.2. Expansive Protocols. Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes will not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls will only be used when mutually agreed to by the parties.
- 60.3. Mass Calling. NuVox and Embarq shall cooperate and share pre-planning information, where available, regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes, to prevent or mitigate the impact of these events on the public switched network.

## **61. TRANSIT TRAFFIC**

- 61.1. Transit Service means the delivery of Transit Traffic, i.e. Local Traffic or ISP-Bound Traffic that originated one Party's network, transited through the other Party's network, and terminated to a third party or that originated by a third party transited through a Party's network and terminated to the other Party's network
- 61.2. To the extent network and contractual arrangements exist with all necessary parties throughout the term of this Agreement, and where indirectly interconnected parties have an interconnection to the same Embarq tandem, Embarq will provide Transit Services for NuVox's connection of its end user to a local end user of: (1) CLECs, (2) an ILEC other than Embarq, and (3) other CMRS carriers.
- 61.3. Each Party may require separate trunking for the delivery of such Transit Traffic in order to accurately measure and bill it.

#### 61.4. Terms and Conditions

61.4.1. Each Party acknowledges that a third-party LEC may block transit traffic. To the extent the originated Party's traffic is blocked by a third party, the transiting party shall have no obligation to resolve the dispute. Each Party acknowledges that the transiting party does not have any responsibility to pay any third-party Telecommunications Carrier charges for termination of any identifiable Transit Traffic from the originating Party. Each Party acknowledges that it is the originating Party's responsibility to enter into arrangements with each third party LEC, CLEC, or CMRS provider for the exchange of transit traffic to that third party.

61.4.2. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, once the Transit Traffic volume between CLEC/CMRS and a third party exceeds the equivalent of three (3) DS1s of traffic, Embarq may, but shall not be obligated to require CLEC/CMRS to establish a direct connection with to the parties to whom they are sending traffic. Embarq also reserves the right to require CLEC/CMRS to establish a direct connection to the third party if, in Embarq's sole discretion, the tandem is at or approaching capacity limitations. These limitations may include but are not limited to a lack of trunk port capacity or processor capacity based on the then existing tandem and network configuration. Within 90 days after Embarq notifies CLEC/CMRS of the requirement to direct connect, CLEC/CMRS shall establish a direct interconnection with such third party. After ninety (90) days, if CLEC/CMRS has not established a direct interconnection, Embarq may thereafter charge CLEC/CMRS for such transit service at Intrastate Access rates, or Embarq may discontinue providing transit service to CLEC/CMRS, at the sole discretion of Embarq, provided however, that Embarq shall exercise such discretion in a non-discriminatory manner.

#### 61.5. Payment Terms and Conditions

61.5.1. The originating Party shall pay the transiting party a transit service charge as set forth in Table One.

- 61.5.2. NuVox shall pay a transit rate as set forth in Table One of this Part when NuVox uses a Embarq access tandem to terminate a local or ISP-bound call to a third party LEC, CLEC or CMRS provider. Embarq shall pay NuVox a transit rate equal to the Embarq rate referenced above when Embarq uses a NuVox switch to terminate a local call or ISP-Bound call to a third party LEC, CLEC or CMRS provider.

#### 61.6. Billing Records and Exchange of Data

- 61.6.1. Parties will use their best efforts to convert all networks transporting transit traffic to deliver each call to the other Party's network with SS7 Common Channel Interoffice Signaling (CCIS) and other appropriate TCAP messages in order to facilitate full interoperability and billing functions. The Parties agree to send all message indicators, including originating telephone number, local routing number and CIC.
- 61.6.2. Upon request by the terminating Party and to the extent possible, the transiting Party agrees to provide the terminating Party information on traffic originated by a third party CLECs or CMRS provider. To the extent a Party incurs additional cost in providing this billing information, the other Party agrees to reimburse the transiting Party for its direct costs of providing this information.
- 61.6.3. To the extent that the industry adopts a standard record format for recording originating and/or terminating transit calls, both Parties agree to comply with the industry-adopted format to exchange records.

### 62. INDIRECT TRAFFIC

#### 62.1. Interconnection

- 62.1.1. The Parties may send each other Indirect Traffic.
- 62.1.2. For purposes of exchanging Indirect Traffic there is no physical or direct point of interconnection between the Parties, therefore neither Party is required to construct new facilities or make mid-span meet arrangements available to the other Party for Indirect Traffic.
- 62.1.3. The Parties will utilize best efforts to avoid sending Indirect Traffic where NuVox is not interconnected at the tandem switch which

Embarq's end office subtends. (i.e., double tandem indirect traffic.) The terminating Party may request that the originating Party cease sending such double tandem indirect traffic or reimburse the terminating Party for additional costs actually incurred. If the originating Party does not either cease sending such traffic or agreeing to pay such additional costs, the terminating Party may invoke the dispute resolution provisions of this Agreement.

- 62.1.4. Indirect interconnection will provide the Party with access to the other Party's end-users for the local and toll service purposes.
- 62.1.5. NuVox must establish direct end office trunking at any Embarq end office that subtends a non-Embarq tandem when total Indirect traffic volumes exchanged between that particular Embarq end office and NuVox exceeds a DS1 level of Local Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic per month for three consecutive months. Embarq shall inform NuVox when traffic volumes exceed this level at an Embarq end office. NuVox shall then have ninety (90) days from the date of such notification to establish direct end office trunking to such end office

## 62.2. Exchange Of Traffic

- 62.2.1. Each Party acknowledges that it is the originating Party's responsibility to enter into transiting arrangements with the third party providing the transit services.
- 62.2.2. Each terminating Party is responsible for billing the originating company for traffic terminated on its respective network. For this Indirect Traffic, the originating Party will provide the originating billing information to the terminating Party, if technically feasible. If the originating Party cannot provide the originating billing information to the terminating Party, then the terminating Party must obtain the originating billing information from the third-party transit company. Any costs incurred by the terminating Party in obtaining the records, and costs incurred in manual billing, will be billed back to the originating Party.
- 62.2.3. It is each Party's responsibility to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements with the third-party transit company in order to obtain the

originating billing information from the transit company.

62.2.4. Until Indirect traffic exceeds a DS1, each Party is responsible for the payment of transit charges for its originating traffic assessed by the transiting party. After Indirect traffic exceeds a DS1, if NuVox has not established a direct end office trunking 90 days after Embarq notifies NuVox in accordance with section 20, NuVox will reimburse Embarq for any transit charges billed by an intermediary carrier for Local Traffic or ISP-Bound Traffic originated by Embarq.

### 62.3. Compensation for Indirect Traffic

#### 62.3.1. Non-Local and Non-ISP-Bound Indirect Traffic

62.3.1.1. Compensation for the termination of non-Local traffic, non-ISP-Bound Traffic and the origination of 800 traffic between the interconnecting Parties shall be based on the applicable access charges in accordance with FCC and Commission Rules and Regulations.

62.3.1.2. Toll traffic, switched access, and special access traffic, if separately chargeable, shall be charged the appropriate rate out of the terminating LEC's tariff or via other appropriate meet point access arrangements. Where exact transport mileage is not available, an average, arrived at by mutual agreement of the Parties, will be used.

62.3.2. Local Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic. The rates set forth on Table One shall apply, in accordance with Section 57.1.

#### 62.3.2.1. Indirect Traffic Terminating to Embarq

62.3.2.2. Each rate element utilized in completing a call shall be charged for completion of that call. For example, a call terminating from CLEC through the transiting party, and over Embarq facilities to a Embarq End Office Switch would include charges from Embarq to NuVox for Common Transport to the End Office Switch and End Office switching. A call terminating from CLEC though the transiting party, and then over Embarq facilities through Embarq End Office Switch to a Embarq

Remote Switch would include charges from Embarq to NuVox for Common Transport to the End Office Switch (except where the transiting party is collocated in the Embarq End Office), End Office switching, and Common Transport to the Remote Switch.

62.3.2.3. Indirect Traffic Terminating to NuVox:

62.3.2.4. For Indirect Traffic terminating on NuVox's network, NuVox will bill Embarq the same rates as Embarq charges NuVox for Indirect Local Traffic terminating on Embarq's network in accordance with Section 57.

### **63. USAGE MEASUREMENT**

- 63.1. Each Party shall calculate terminating interconnection minutes of use based on standard AMA recordings made within each Party's network, these recordings being necessary for each Party to generate bills to the other Party. In the event either Party cannot measure minutes terminating on its network where technically feasible, the other Party shall provide the measuring mechanism or the Parties shall otherwise agree on an alternate arrangement.
- 63.2. Measurement of minutes of use over Local Interconnection trunk groups shall be in actual conversation seconds. The total conversation seconds over each individual Local Interconnection trunk group will be totaled for the entire monthly bill period and then rounded to the next whole minute.
- 63.3. Prior to the commencement of billing for interconnection, each Party shall provide to the other, the PLU of the traffic terminated to each other over the Local Interconnection trunk groups.

### **64. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

- 64.1. Embarq and NuVox will review engineering requirements consistent with the Implementation Plan described in Part B, Part C, Part F and as otherwise set forth in this Agreement.
- 64.2. NuVox and Embarq shall share responsibility for all Control Office functions for Local Interconnection Trunks and Trunk Groups, and both parties shall share the



overall coordination, installation, and maintenance responsibilities for these trunks and trunk groups.

64.3. NuVox and Embarq shall:

- 64.3.1. Provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians.
- 64.3.2. Notify each other when there is any change affecting the service requested, including the due date.
- 64.3.3. Coordinate and schedule testing activities of their own personnel, and others as applicable, to ensure its interconnection trunks/trunk groups are installed per the interconnection order, meet agreed-upon acceptance test requirements, and are placed in service by the due date.
- 64.3.4. Perform sectionalization to determine if a trouble is located in its facility or its portion of the interconnection trunks prior to referring the trouble to each other.
- 64.3.5. Advise each other's Control Office if there is an equipment failure which may affect the interconnection trunks.
- 64.3.6. Provide each other with a trouble reporting/repair contact number that is readily accessible and available twenty-four (24) hours/seven (7) days a week. Any changes to this contact arrangement must be immediately provided to the other party.
- 64.3.7. Provide to each other test-line numbers and access to test lines.
- 64.3.8. Cooperatively plan and implement coordinated repair procedures for the meet point and Local Interconnection trunks and facilities to ensure trouble reports are resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.

## **PART G - LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY**

### **65. INTRODUCTION**

- 65.1. Upon implementation of LNP, both Parties agree to conform and provide such LNP pursuant to FCC regulations and compliance with the Industry Forum Guidelines. To the extent consistent with the FCC and Industry Guidelines as amended from time to time, the requirements for LNP shall include the following:
- 65.2. End users must be able to change local service providers and retain the same telephone number(s) within the serving rate center utilizing the portability method as defined by the FCC.
- 65.3. The LNP network architecture shall not subject Parties to any degradation of service in any relevant measure, including transmission quality, switching and transport costs, increased call set-up time and post-dial delay.
  - 65.3.1. Parties agree that when an NXX is defined as portable, it shall also be defined as portable in all LNP capable switches serving the rate center.
  - 65.3.2. When an end user ports to another service provider and has previously secured a reservation of line numbers from the donor provider under contract or tariff for possible activation at some future point, these reserved but inactive numbers shall port along with the active numbers being ported by the end user.
  - 65.3.3. NXX Availability. Not all NXXs in each CO may be available for porting.
  - 65.3.4. LERG Reassignment. Portability for an entire NXX shall be provided by utilizing reassignment of the NXX to NuVox through the LERG.
  - 65.3.5. Coordination of service order work outside normal business hours (8:00AM to 5:00PM) shall be at requesting Party's expense. Premium rates will apply for service order work performed outside normal business hours, weekends, and holidays.
  - 65.3.6. Mass Calling Events. Parties will notify each other at least seven (7) Days in advance where ported numbers are utilized. Parties will only port mass calling numbers using switch translations and a choke network

for call routing. Porting on mass calling numbers will be handled outside the normal porting process and comply with any applicable federal regulatory requirements or industry guidelines developed for mass calling numbers.

## **66. TESTING**

- 66.1. An Interconnection Agreement (or Memorandum of Understanding, or Porting Agreement) detailing conditions for LNP must be in effect between the Parties prior to testing.
- 66.2. Testing and operational issues will be addressed in the implementation plans as described in Part B, Section 33 of the agreement.
- 66.3. NuVox must be NPAC certified and have met Embarq testing parameters prior to activating LNP. After initial LNP implementation by a CLEC/CMRS provider testing and porting will be done at NuVox's expense.
- 66.4. Parties will cooperate to ensure effective maintenance testing through activities such as routine testing practices, network trouble isolation processes and review of operational elements for translations, routing and network fault isolation.
- 66.5. Parties shall cooperate in testing performed to ensure interconnectivity between systems. All LNP providers shall notify each connected provider of any system updates that may affect the NuVox or Embarq network. Each LNP provider shall, at each other's request, jointly perform tests to validate the operation of the network. Additional testing requirements may apply as specified by this Agreement or in the Implementation Plan.

## **67. ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE**

- 67.1. Each LNP provider will monitor and perform effective maintenance through testing and the performance of proactive maintenance activities such as routine testing, development of and adherence to appropriate network trouble isolation processes and periodic review of operational elements for translations, routing and network faults.
- 67.2. It will be the responsibility of the Parties to ensure that the network is stable and maintenance and performance levels are maintained in accordance with state

commission requirements. It will be the responsibility of the Parties to perform fault isolation in their network before involving other providers.

- 67.3. Additional engineering and maintenance requirements shall apply as specified in this Agreement or the Implementation Plan.

**68. E911/911**

- 68.1. When a subscriber ports to another service provider, the donor provider shall unlock the information in the 911/ALI database. The porting provider is responsible for updating the 911 tandem switch routing tables and 911/ALI database to correctly route, and provide accurate information to the PSAP call centers.
- 68.2. Prior to implementation of LNP, the Parties agree to develop, implement, and maintain efficient methods to maintain 911 database integrity when a subscriber ports to another service provider. The Parties agree that the customer shall not be dropped from the 911 database during the transition.

**69. BILLING FOR PORTED NUMBERS**

- 69.1. When an IXC terminates an InterLATA or IntraLATA toll call to either party's local exchange customer whose telephone number has been ported from one party to the other, the parties agree that the party to whom the number has been ported shall be entitled to revenue from the IXC for those access elements it actually provides including, but not limited to end office switching, local transport, RIC, and CCL. The party from whom the number has been ported shall be entitled to receive revenue from the IXC for those access elements it actually provides including, but not limited to any entrance facility fees, access tandem fees and appropriate local transport charges.
- 69.2. Non-Payment. Customers lose the right to the ported telephone number upon suspension of service. Embarq will not port telephone numbers of customers whose service has been suspended.

## **PART H – NON-251 SERVICES**

### **70. CALL-RELATED DATABASES**

70.1. Embarq will offer access to call-related databases (non-251 services), including, but not limited to, Toll Free Calling database, Number Portability database, and Calling Name (CNAM) database. Embarq reserves the right to decline to offer access to certain AIN software that qualifies for proprietary treatment. The rates for access to these call-related databases are set forth on Table One.

70.1.1. The CNAM database is a transaction-oriented database accessible via the CCS network. CNAM provides the calling parties' name to be delivered and displayed to the terminating caller with 'Caller ID with Name'. Use of Embarq's CNAM Database by NuVox and NuVox's customers is limited to obtaining CNAM responses and using the information contained in those responses only on a call by call basis and only to support service related to a call in progress. NuVox will not capture, cache, or store any information contained in a CNAM response.

70.1.2. The Toll Free Number Database provides functionality necessary for toll free (e.g., 800 and 888) number services by providing routing information and additional vertical features (i.e., time of day routing by location, by carrier and routing to multiple geographic locations) during call setup in response to queries from NuVox's switch. Use of Embarq's Toll Free Database by NuVox and its customers is limited to obtaining information, on a call-by-call basis, for proper routing of calls in the provision of toll free exchange access service or local toll free service.

70.1.3. Local Number Portability Local Routing Query Service. TCAP messages originated by NuVox's SSPs and received by Embarq's database will be provided a response upon completion of a database lookup to determine the LRN. This information will be populated in industry standard format and returned to NuVox so that it can then terminate the call in progress to the telephone number now residing in the switch designated by the LRN.

70.1.3.1. NuVox agrees to obtain, prior to the initiation of any LNP query, a NPAC/SMS User Agreement with Neustar. NuVox

will maintain the NPAC/SMS User Agreement with Neustar, or its successor, as long as it continues to make LNP queries to the Embarq database. Failure to obtain and maintain the NPAC/SMS User Agreement is considered a breach of this Agreement and is cause for immediate termination of service. Embarq shall not be liable for any direct or consequential damages due to termination because of lack of a NPAC/SMS User Agreement.

- 70.1.3.2. Embarq's LNP Database service offering does not include the cost of any charges or assessments by Number Portability Administrative Centers, whether under the NPAC/SMS User Agreement with Lockheed, or otherwise, or any charges assessed directly against NuVox as the result of the FCC LNP Orders or otherwise by any third-party. These costs include the costs assessed against telecommunications carriers to pay for NPAC functions as permitted by the FCC and applicable legal or regulatory bodies. Embarq shall have no liability to NuVox or the NPAC for any of these fees or charges applicable to NuVox, even though it may pay such charges for other Embarq companies.

## **PART I - GENERAL BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS**

### **71. PROCEDURES**

#### **71.1. Contact with End Users**

71.1.1. Each Party at all times shall be the primary contact and account control for all interactions with its end users, except as specified by that Party. Subscribers include active end users as well as those for whom service orders are pending.

71.1.2. Each Party shall ensure that any of its personnel who may receive end user inquiries, or otherwise have opportunity for end user contact from the other Party's end user regarding the other Party's services: (i) provide appropriate referrals to subscribers who inquire about the other Party's services or products; (ii) do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party, or its products or services; and (iii) do not provide information about its products or services during that same inquiry or end user contact.

71.1.3. Embarq shall not use NuVox's request for end user information, order submission, or any other aspect of NuVox's processes or services to aid Embarq's marketing or sales efforts.

#### **71.2. Expedite and Escalation Procedures**

71.2.1. Embarq and NuVox shall develop mutually acceptable escalation and expedite procedures which may be invoked at any point in the Service Ordering, Provisioning, Maintenance, and Subscriber Usage Data transfer processes to facilitate rapid and timely resolution of disputes. In addition, Embarq and NuVox will establish intercompany contacts lists for purposes of handling end user and other matters which require attention/resolution outside of normal business procedures within thirty (30) Days after NuVox's request. Each party shall notify the other party of any changes to its escalation contact list as soon as practicable before such changes are effective.

- 71.2.2. No later than thirty (30) Days after NuVox's request Embarq shall provide NuVox with contingency plans for those cases in which normal Service Ordering, Provisioning, Maintenance, Billing, and other procedures for Embarq's unbundled Network Elements, features, functions, and resale services are inoperable.
- 71.3. Subscriber of Record. Embarq shall recognize NuVox as the Subscriber of Record for all Network Elements or services for resale ordered by NuVox and shall send all notices, invoices, and information which pertain to such ordered services directly to NuVox. NuVox will provide Embarq with addresses to which Embarq shall send all such notices, invoices, and information.
- 71.4. Service Offerings
- 71.4.1. Embarq shall provide NuVox with access to new services, features and functions concurrent with Embarq's notice to NuVox of such changes, if such service, feature or function is installed and available in the network or as soon thereafter as it is installed and available in the network, so that NuVox may conduct market testing.
- 71.4.2. Essential Services. For purposes of service restoral, Embarq shall designate a NuVox access line as an Essential Service Line (ESL) at Parity with Embarq's treatment of its own end users and applicable state law or regulation, if any.
- 71.4.3. Blocking Services. Upon request from NuVox, employing Embarq-approved LSR documentation, Embarq shall provide blocking of 700, 900, and 976 services, or other services of similar type as may now exist or be developed in the future, and shall provide Billed Number Screening (BNS), including required LIDB updates, or equivalent service for blocking completion of bill-to-third party and collect calls, on a line, PBX, or individual service basis. Blocking shall be provided to the extent (a) it is an available option for the Telecommunications Service resold by NuVox, or (b) it is technically feasible when requested by NuVox as a function of unbundled Network Elements.
- 71.4.4. Training Support. Embarq shall provide training, on a non-discriminatory basis, for all Embarq employees who may communicate, either by telephone or face-to-face, with NuVox end users. Such



training shall include compliance with the branding requirements of this Agreement including without limitation provisions of forms, and unbranded “Not at Home” notices.

## **72. ORDERING AND PROVISIONING**

72.1. Ordering and Provisioning Parity. Embarq shall provide necessary ordering and provisioning business process support as well as those technical and systems interfaces as may be required to enable NuVox to provide the same level and quality of service for all resale services, functions, features, capabilities and unbundled Network Elements at Parity.

72.2. National Exchange Access Center (NEAC)

72.2.1. Embarq shall provide a NEAC or equivalent which shall serve as NuVox’s point of contact for all activities involved in the ordering and provisioning of Embarq’s unbundled Network Elements, features, functions, and resale services.

72.2.2. The NEAC shall provide to NuVox a nationwide telephone number (available from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, and 8:00 am through 5:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time on Saturday) answered by competent, knowledgeable personnel trained to answer questions and resolve problems in connection with the ordering and provisioning of unbundled Network Elements (except those associated with local trunking interconnection), features, functions, capabilities, and resale services.

72.2.3. Embarq shall provide, as requested by NuVox, through the NEAC, provisioning and premises visit installation support in the form of coordinated scheduling, status, and dispatch capabilities during Embarq’s standard business hours and at other times as agreed upon by the parties to meet end user demand.

72.3. Street Index Guide (SIG). Within thirty (30) Days of NuVox’s written request, Embarq shall provide to NuVox the SIG data in the National Emergency Number Association Two (NENA2) format. A CDROM containing the SIG data will be shipped to NuVox’s designated contact on a monthly basis until the request is cancelled.

72.4. CLASS and Custom Features. Where generally available in Embarq's serving area, NuVox, at the tariff rate, may order the entire set of CLASS, CENTREX and Custom features and functions, or a subset of any one of such features.

72.5. Number Administration/Number Reservation

72.5.1. Embarq shall provide testing and loading of NuVox's NXX on the same basis as Embarq provides itself or its affiliates. Further, Embarq shall provide NuVox with access to abbreviated dialing codes, and the ability to obtain telephone numbers, including vanity numbers, while a subscriber is on the phone with NuVox. When NuVox uses numbers from a Embarq NXX, Embarq shall provide the same range of number choices to NuVox, including choice of exchange number, as Embarq provides its own subscribers. Reservation and aging of Embarq NXX's shall remain Embarq's responsibility.

72.5.2. In conjunction with an order for service, Embarq shall accept NuVox orders for vanity numbers and blocks of numbers for use with complex services including, but not limited to, DID, CENTREX, and Hunting arrangements, as requested by NuVox.

72.5.3. For simple services number reservations and aging of Embarq's numbers, Embarq shall provide real-time confirmation of the number reservation when the Electronic Interface has been implemented. For number reservations associated with complex services, Embarq shall provide confirmation of the number reservation within twenty-four (24) hours of NuVox's request. Consistent with the manner in which Embarq provides numbers to its own subscribers, no telephone number assignment is guaranteed until service has been installed.

72.6. Service Order Process Requirements

72.6.1. Service Migrations and New Subscriber Additions

72.6.1.1. For resale services, other than for a NuVox order to convert "as is" a NuVox subscriber, Embarq shall not disconnect any subscriber service or existing features at any time during the migration of that subscriber to NuVox service without prior NuVox agreement.

- 72.6.1.2. For services provided through UNEs, Embarq shall recognize NuVox as an agent, in accordance with OBF developed processes, for the subscriber in coordinating the disconnection of services provided by another NuVox or Embarq. In addition, Embarq and NuVox will work cooperatively to minimize service interruptions during the conversion.
- 72.6.1.3. Unless otherwise directed by NuVox and when technically capable, when NuVox orders resale Telecommunications Services all trunk or telephone numbers currently associated with existing services shall be retained without loss of feature capability and without loss of associated ancillary services including, but not limited to, Directory Assistance and 911/E911 capability.
- 72.6.1.4. For subscriber conversions requiring coordinated cut-over activities, on a per order basis, Embarq, to the extent resources are readily available, and NuVox will agree on a scheduled conversion time, which will be a designated time period within a designated date.
- 72.6.1.5. Any request made by NuVox to coordinate conversions after normal working hours, or on Saturdays or Sundays or Embarq holidays shall be performed at NuVox's expense.
- 72.6.1.6. A general Letter of Agency (LOA) initiated by NuVox or Embarq will be required to process a PLC or PIC change order. Providing the LOA, or a copy of the LOA, signed by the end user will not be required to process a PLC or PIC change ordered by NuVox or Embarq. NuVox and Embarq agree that PLC and PIC change orders will be supported with appropriate documentation and verification as required by FCC and Commission rules. In the event of a subscriber complaint of an unauthorized PLC record change where the Party that ordered such change is unable to produce appropriate documentation and verification as required by FCC and Commission rules (or, if there are no rules

applicable to PLC record changes, then such rules as are applicable to changes in long distance carriers of record), such Party shall be liable to pay and shall pay all nonrecurring and/or other charges associated with reestablishing the subscriber's local service with the original local carrier.

72.6.2. Intercept Treatment and Transfer Service Announcements. Embarq shall provide unbranded intercept treatment and transfer of service announcements to NuVox's subscribers. Embarq shall provide such treatment and transfer of service announcement in accordance with local tariffs and as provided to similarly situated Embarq subscribers for all service disconnects, suspensions, or transfers.

72.6.3. Due Date

72.6.3.1. Embarq shall supply NuVox with due date intervals to be used by NuVox personnel to determine service installation dates.

72.6.3.2. Embarq shall use reasonable efforts to complete orders by NuVox requested DDD within agreed upon intervals.

72.6.4. Subscriber Premises Inspections and Installations

72.6.4.1. NuVox shall perform or contract for all NuVox's needs assessments, including equipment and installation requirements required beyond the Demarcation/NID, located at the subscriber premises.

72.6.4.2. Embarq shall provide NuVox with the ability to schedule subscriber premises installations at the same morning and evening commitment level of service offered Embarq's own customers. The parties shall mutually agree on an interim process to provide this functionality during the implementation planning process.

72.6.5. Firm Order Confirmation (FOC)

72.6.5.1. Embarq shall provide to NuVox, a Firm Order Confirmation (FOC) for each NuVox order. The FOC shall contain the appropriate data elements as defined by the OBF standards.

72.6.5.2. For a revised FOC, Embarq shall provide standard detail as defined by the OBF standards.

72.6.5.3. Embarq shall provide to NuVox the date that service is scheduled to be installed.

72.6.6. Order Rejections

72.6.6.1. Embarq shall reject and return to NuVox any order that Embarq cannot provision, due to technical reasons, missing information, or jeopardy conditions resulting from NuVox ordering service at less than the standard order interval. When an order is rejected, Embarq shall, in its reject notification, specifically describe all of the reasons for which the order was rejected. Embarq shall reject any orders on account of the customer Desired Due Date conflicts with published Embarq order provisioning interval requirements.

72.6.7. Service Order Changes

72.6.7.1. In no event will Embarq change a NuVox initiated service order without a new service order directing said change. If an installation or other NuVox ordered work requires a change from the original NuVox service order in any manner, NuVox shall initiate a revised service order. If requested by NuVox, Embarq shall then provide NuVox an estimate of additional labor hours and/or materials.

- 72.6.7.2. When a service order is completed, the cost of the work performed will be reported promptly to NuVox.
  - 72.6.7.3. If a NuVox subscriber requests a service change at the time of installation or other work being performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox, Embarq, while at the subscriber premises, shall direct the NuVox subscriber to contact NuVox, and NuVox will initiate a new service order.
- 72.7. Network Testing. Embarq shall perform all its standard pre-service testing prior to the completion of the service order.
- 72.8. Service Suspensions/Restorations. Upon NuVox's request through an Industry Standard, OBF, Suspend/Restore Order, or mutually agreed upon interim procedure, Embarq shall suspend or restore the functionality of any Network Element, feature, function, or resale service to which suspend/restore is applicable. Embarq shall provide restoration priority on a per network element basis in a manner that conforms with any applicable regulatory Rules and Regulations or government requirements.
- 72.9. Order Completion Notification. Upon completion of the requests submitted by NuVox, Embarq shall provide to NuVox a completion notification in an industry standard, OBF, or in a mutually agreed format. The completion notification shall include detail of the work performed, to the extent this is defined within OBF guidelines, and in an interim method until such standards are defined.
- 72.10. Specific Unbundling Requirements. NuVox may order and Embarq shall provision unbundled Network Elements. However, it is NuVox's responsibility to combine the individual network elements should it desire to do so.
- 72.11. Systems Interfaces and Information Exchanges
  - 72.11.1. General Requirements
    - 72.11.1.1. Embarq shall provide to NuVox Electronic Interface(s) for transferring and receiving information

and executing transactions for all business functions directly or indirectly related to Service Ordering and Provisioning of Network Elements, features, functions and Telecommunications Services, to the extent available.

72.11.1.2. Until the Electronic Interface is available, Embarq agrees that the NEAC or similar function will accept NuVox orders. Orders will be transmitted to the NEAC via an interface or method agreed upon by NuVox and Embarq.

72.11.1.3. If the method of connectivity is File Transfer Protocol (FTP), the response(s) will be loaded to the server every hour and it is the responsibility of NuVox to retrieve their response(s) from the server.

72.11.1.4. It is the responsibility of NuVox to provide Embarq with the LOA (Letter of Authorization) when another party is involved and is working on their behalf.

72.11.2. For any NuVox subscriber Embarq shall provide, subject to applicable rules, orders, and decisions, NuVox with access CPNI without requiring NuVox to produce a signed LOA, based on NuVox's blanket representation that subscriber has authorized NuVox to obtain such CPNI.

72.11.2.1. The preordering Electronic Interface includes the provisioning of CPNI from Embarq to NuVox. The Parties agree to execute a LOA agreement with the Embarq end user prior to requesting CPNI for that Embarq end user, and to request end user CPNI only when the end user has specifically given permission to receive CPNI. The Parties agree that they will conform to FCC and/or state regulations regarding the provisioning of CPNI between the parties, and regarding the use of that information by the requesting party.

- 72.11.2.2. The requesting Party will document end user permission obtained to receive CPNI, whether or not the end user has agreed to change local service providers. For end users changing service from one party to the other, specific end user LOAs may be requested by the Party receiving CPNI requests to investigate possible slamming incidents, and for other reasons agreed to by the Parties.
- 72.11.2.3. The receiving Party may also request documentation of an LOA if CPNI is requested and a subsequent service order for the change of local service is not received. On a schedule to be determined by Embarq, Embarq will perform a comparison of requests for CPNI to service orders received for the change of Local Service to NuVox. Embarq will produce a report of unmatched requests for CPNI, and may require an LOA from NuVox for each unmatched request. NuVox agrees to provide evidence of end user permission for receipt of CPNI for all end users in the request by Embarq within three (3) Business Days of receipt of a request from Embarq. Should Embarq determine that there has been a substantial percentage of unmatched LOA requests, Embarq reserves the right to immediately disconnect the preordering Electronic Interface.
- 72.11.2.4. If NuVox is not able to provide the LOA for ninety-five percent (95%) of the end users requested by Embarq, or if Embarq determines that an LOA is inadequate, NuVox will be considered in breach of the agreement. NuVox can cure the breach by submitting to Embarq evidence of an LOA for each inadequate or omitted LOA within three (3) Business Days of notification of the breach.
- 72.11.2.5. Should NuVox not be able to cure the breach in the



timeframe noted above, Embarq will discontinue processing new service orders until, in Embarq's determination, NuVox has corrected the problem that caused the breach.

72.11.2.6. Embarq will resume processing new service orders upon Embarq's timely review and acceptance of evidence provided by NuVox to correct the problem that caused the breach.

72.11.2.7. If NuVox and Embarq do not agree that NuVox requested CPNI for a specific end user, or that Embarq has erred in not accepting proof of an LOA, the Parties may immediately request dispute resolution in accordance with Part B. Embarq will not disconnect the preordering Electronic Interface during the Alternate Dispute Resolution process.

72.12. NuVox may use Embarq's ordering process (IRES) to:

72.12.1. to assign telephone number(s) (if the subscriber does not already have a telephone number or requests a change of telephone number) at Parity.

72.12.1.1. to schedule dispatch and installation appointments at Parity.

72.12.1.2. to access Embarq subscriber information systems which will allow NuVox to determine if a service call is needed to install the line or service at Parity.

72.12.1.3. to access Embarq information systems which will allow NuVox to provide service availability dates at Parity.

72.12.1.4. transmit status information on service orders, including acknowledgement, firm order confirmation, and completion at Parity.

72.13. Standards

72.13.1. General Requirements. NuVox and Embarq shall agree upon the appropriate ordering and provisioning codes to be used for UNEs. These codes shall apply to all aspects of the unbundling of that element

and shall be known as data elements as defined by the Telecommunications Industry Forum Electronic Data Interchange Service Order Subcommittee (TCIF-EDI-SOSC).

### **73. BILLING**

- 73.1. Embarq shall comply with various industry, OBF, and other standards referred to throughout this Agreement. Embarq will review any changes to industry standards, and implement the changes within the industry-defined window. Embarq will notify NuVox of any deviations to the standards.
- 73.2. Embarq shall bill NuVox for each service supplied by Embarq to NuVox pursuant to this Agreement at the rates set forth in this Agreement.
- 73.3. Embarq shall provide to NuVox a single point of contact for interconnection and collocation at the National Access Service Center (NASC), and Network Elements and resale at Embarq's NEAC, to handle any Connectivity Billing questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 73.4. Embarq shall provide a single point of contact for handling of any data exchange questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 73.5. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, NuVox shall pay Embarq within thirty (30) Days from the Bill Date. If the payment due date is a Saturday, Sunday or has been designated a bank holiday payment shall be made the next business day.
- 73.6. Billed amounts for which written, itemized disputes or claims have been filed shall be handled in accordance with the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in Part B of this Agreement.
- 73.7. Embarq will assess late payment charges to NuVox in accordance with Part B, Section 7.4 of this Agreement.
- 73.8. Embarq shall credit NuVox for incorrect Connectivity Billing charges including without limitation: overcharges, services ordered or requested but not delivered, interrupted services, services of poor quality and installation problems if caused by Embarq. Such reimbursements shall be set forth in the appropriate section of the Connectivity Bill pursuant to CABS, or SECAB standards.

- 73.9. Where Parties have established interconnection, Embarq and NuVox agree to conform to MECAB and MECOD guidelines. They will exchange Billing Account Reference and Bill Account Cross Reference information and will coordinate Initial Billing Company/Subsequent Billing Company billing cycles. Embarq will provide NuVox the appropriate records to bill exchange access charges to the IXC. Embarq will capture EMI records for inward terminating calls and send them to NuVox, as appropriate, in a daily or other agreed upon interval, via and agreed upon media (e.g.: Connect Direct or CD Rom). Upon Embarq's request, NuVox will provide Embarq the appropriate records to bill exchange access charges to the IXC. NuVox will capture EMI records for inward terminating calls and send them to Embarq, as appropriate, in a daily or other agreed upon interval, via and agreed upon media (e.g.: Connect Direct or CD Rom).
- 73.10. Embarq will bill NuVox for message provisioning and, if applicable, data tape charges related to exchange access records. Embarq will bill NuVox for the records at the rates on Table One. If NuVox requests additional copies of the monthly invoice, Embarq may also bill NuVox for the additional copies.
- 73.11. Revenue Protection. Embarq shall make available to NuVox, at Parity with what Embarq provides to itself, its Affiliates and other local telecommunications NuVoxs, all present and future fraud prevention or revenue protection features, including prevention, detection, or control functionality embedded within any of the Network Elements. These features include, but are not limited to screening codes, information digits assigned such as information digits '29' and '70' which indicate prison and COCOT pay phone originating line types respectively, call blocking of domestic, international, 800, 888, 900, NPA-976, 700, 500 and specific line numbers, and the capability to require end-user entry of an authorization code for dial tone. Embarq shall, when technically capable and consistent with the implementation schedule for Operations Support Systems (OSS), additionally provide partitioned access to fraud prevention, detection and control functionality within pertinent OSS.

#### **74. PROVISION OF USAGE DATA**

- 74.1. This Section sets forth the terms and conditions for Embarq's provision of Recorded Usage Data (as defined in this Part) to NuVox and for information

exchange regarding long distance and access billing. The parties agree to record call information for interconnection in accordance with this Section. To the extent technically feasible, each party shall record all call detail information associated with completed calls originated by or terminated to the other Party's local exchange subscriber, and long distance calls transited through one Party's network to the terminating provider. Embarq shall record for NuVox the messages that Embarq records for and bills to its end users and records for billing of interexchange carriers. These records shall be provided at a party's request and shall be formatted pursuant to Telcordia's EMI standards and the terms and conditions of this Agreement. These records shall be transmitted to the other party on non-holiday Business Days in EMI format via CDN, or provided on a cartridge. Embarq and NuVox agree that they shall retain, at each party's sole expense, copies of all EMI records transmitted to the other party for at least forty-five (45) calendar days after transmission to the other party.

#### 74.2. General Procedures

- 74.2.1. Embarq shall comply with various industry and OBF standards referred to throughout this Agreement.
- 74.2.2. Embarq shall comply with OBF standards when recording and transmitting Usage Data.
- 74.2.3. Embarq shall record all usage originating from NuVox end users using resold services ordered by NuVox, where Embarq records those same services for Embarq end users. Recorded Usage Data includes, but is not limited to, the following categories of information:
  - 74.2.3.1. Use of CLASS/LASS/Custom Features that Embarq records and bills for its end users on a per usage basis.
  - 74.2.3.2. Calls to Information Providers (IP) reached via Embarq facilities will be provided in accordance with Section 74.2.7
  - 74.2.3.3. Calls to Directory Assistance where Embarq provides such service to a NuVox end user.
  - 74.2.3.4. Calls completed via Embarq-provided Operator Services where Embarq provides such service to NuVox's local service end user and where Embarq records such usage for its

end users using Industry Standard Telcordia EMI billing records.

74.2.3.5. Access records related to long distance calling.

74.2.3.6. For Embarq-provided Centrex Service, station level detail.

74.2.4. Retention of Records. Embarq shall maintain a machine readable back-up copy of the message detail provided to NuVox for a minimum of forty-five (45) calendar days. During the forty-five (45) day period, Embarq shall provide any data back-up to NuVox upon the request of NuVox. If the forty-five (45) day period has expired, Embarq may provide the data back-up at NuVox's expense.

74.2.5. Embarq shall provide to NuVox Recorded Usage Data for NuVox end users. Embarq shall not submit other NuVox local usage data as part of the NuVox Recorded Usage Data.

74.2.6. Embarq shall not bill directly to NuVox subscribers any recurring or non-recurring charges for NuVox's services to the end user except where explicitly permitted to do so within a written agreement between Embarq and NuVox.

74.2.7. Embarq will record 976/N11 calls and transmit them to the IP for billing. Embarq will not bill these calls to either NuVox or NuVox's end user.

74.2.8. Embarq shall provide Recorded Usage Data to NuVox billing locations as agreed to by the Parties.

74.2.9. Embarq shall provide a single point of contact to respond to NuVox call usage, data error, and record transmission inquiries.

74.2.10. Embarq shall provide NuVox with a single point of contact and remote identifiers (IDs) for each sending location.

74.2.11. NuVox shall provide a single point of contact responsible for receiving usage transmitted by Embarq and receiving usage tapes from a courier service in the event of a facility outage.

74.2.12. Embarq shall bill and NuVox shall pay the charges for Recorded Usage Data. Billing and payment shall be in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions set forth herein.

#### 74.3. Charges

74.3.1. Access services, including revenues associated therewith, provided in connection with the resale of services hereunder shall be the responsibility of Embarq and Embarq shall directly bill and receive payment on its own behalf from an IXC for access related to interexchange calls generated by resold or rebranded customers.

74.3.2. Embarq will be responsible for returning EMI records to IXCs with the proper EMI Return Code along with the Operating Company Number (OCN) of the associated ANI, (i.e., Billing Number).

74.3.3. Embarq will deliver a monthly statement for Wholesale Services in the medium (e.g.: NDM, paper, or CD-ROM) requested by NuVox as follows:

74.3.3.1. Invoices will be provided in a standard Carrier Access Billing format or other such format as Embarq may determine;

74.3.3.2. Where local usage charges apply and message detail is created to support available services, the originating local usage at the call detail level in standard EMI industry format will be exchanged daily or at other mutually agreed upon intervals, and NuVox will pay Embarq for providing such call detail;

74.3.3.3. The Parties will work cooperatively to exchange information to facilitate the billing of in and out collect and inter/intra-region alternately billed messages;

74.3.3.4. Embarq agrees to provide information on the end-user's selection of special features where Embarq maintains such information (e.g.: billing method, special language) when NuVox places the order for service;

74.3.3.5. Monthly recurring charges for Telecommunications Services

sold pursuant to this Agreement shall be billed monthly in advance.

74.3.3.6. Embarq shall bill for message provisioning and, if applicable data tape charges, related to the provision of usage records. Embarq shall also bill NuVox for additional copies of the monthly invoice.

74.3.4. For billing purposes, and except as otherwise specifically agreed to in writing, the Telecommunications Services provided hereunder are furnished for a minimum term of one month. Each month is presumed to have thirty (30) days.

#### 74.4. Central Clearinghouse and Settlement

74.4.1. Embarq and NuVox shall agree upon Clearinghouse and Incollect/Outcollect procedures.

74.4.2. Embarq shall settle with NuVox for both intra-region and inter-region billing exchanges of calling card, bill-to-third party, and collect calls under separately negotiated settlement arrangements.

#### 74.5. Lost Data

74.5.1. Loss of Recorded Usage Data. NuVox Recorded Usage Data determined to have been lost, damaged or destroyed as a result of an error or omission by Embarq in its performance of the recording function shall be recovered by Embarq at no charge to NuVox. In the event the data cannot be recovered by Embarq, Embarq shall estimate the messages and associated revenue, with assistance from NuVox, based upon the method described below. This method shall be applied on a consistent basis, subject to modifications agreed to by Embarq and NuVox. This estimate shall be used to adjust amounts NuVox owes Embarq for services Embarq provides in conjunction with the provision of Recorded Usage Data.

74.5.2. Partial Loss. Embarq shall review its daily controls to determine if data has been lost. When there has been a partial loss, actual message and minute volumes shall be reported, if possible through recovery as discussed in Section 74.5 above. Where actual data are not available, a

full day shall be estimated for the recording entity, as outlined in the following paragraphs. The amount of the partial loss is then determined by subtracting the data actually recorded for such day from the estimated total for such day.

- 74.5.3. Complete Loss. When Embarq is unable to recover data as discussed in Section 74.5 above estimated message and minute volumes for each loss consisting of an entire AMA tape or entire data volume due to its loss prior to or during processing, lost after receipt, degaussed before processing, receipt of a blank or unreadable tape, or lost for other causes, shall be reported.
- 74.5.4. Estimated Volumes. From message and minute volume reports for the entity experiencing the loss, Embarq shall secure message/minute counts for the four (4) corresponding days of the weeks preceding that in which the loss occurred and compute an average of these volumes. Embarq shall apply the appropriate average revenue per message (“arpm”) agreed to by NuVox and Embarq to the estimated message volume for messages for which usage charges apply to the subscriber to arrive at the estimated lost revenue.
- 74.5.5. If the day of loss is not a holiday but one (1) (or more) of the preceding corresponding days is a holiday, use additional preceding weeks in order to procure volumes for two (2) non-holidays in the previous two (2) weeks that correspond to the day of the week that is the day of the loss.
- 74.5.6. If the loss occurs on a weekday that is a holiday (except Christmas and Mother’s day), Embarq shall use volumes from the two (2) preceding Sundays.
- 74.5.7. If the loss occurs on Mother’s day or Christmas day, Embarq shall use volumes from that day in the preceding year multiplied by a growth factor derived from an average of NuVox’s most recent three (3) month message volume growth. If a previous year’s message volumes are not available, a settlement shall be negotiated.



#### 74.6. Testing, Changes and Controls

74.6.1. The Recorded Usage Data, EMI format, content, and transmission process shall be tested as agreed upon by NuVox and Embarq.

74.6.2. Control procedures for all usage transferred between Embarq and NuVox shall be available for periodic review. This review may be included as part of an Audit of Embarq by NuVox or as part of the normal production interface management function. Breakdowns which impact the flow of usage between Embarq and NuVox must be identified and jointly resolved as they occur. The resolution may include changes to control procedures, so similar problems would be avoided in the future. Any changes to control procedures would need to be mutually agreed upon by NuVox and Embarq.

#### 74.6.3. Embarq Software Changes

74.6.3.1. When Embarq plans to introduce any software changes which impact the format or content structure of the usage data feed to NuVox, designated Embarq personnel shall notify NuVox no less than ninety (90) calendar days before such changes are implemented.

74.6.3.2. Embarq shall communicate the projected changes to NuVox's single point of contact so that potential impacts on NuVox processing can be determined.

74.6.3.3. NuVox personnel shall review the impact of the change on the entire control structure. NuVox shall negotiate any perceived problems with Embarq and shall arrange to have the data tested utilizing the modified software if required.

74.6.3.4. If it is necessary for Embarq to request changes in the schedule, content or format of usage data transmitted to NuVox, Embarq shall notify NuVox.

#### 74.6.4. NuVox Requested Changes:

74.6.4.1. NuVox may submit a purchase order to negotiate and pay for changes in the content and format of the usage data

transmitted by Embarq.

- 74.6.4.2. When the negotiated changes are to be implemented, NuVox and/or Embarq shall arrange for testing of the modified data.

#### 74.7. Information Exchange and Interfaces

- 74.7.1. Product/Service Specific. Embarq shall provide a Telcordia standard 42-50-01 miscellaneous charge record to support the Special Features Star Services if these features are part of Embarq's offering and are provided for Embarq's subscribers on a per usage basis.

#### 74.8. Rejected Recorded Usage Data

- 74.8.1.1. Upon agreement between NuVox and Embarq, messages that cannot be rated and/or billed by NuVox may be returned to Embarq via CDN or other medium as agreed by the Parties. Returned messages shall be sent directly to Embarq in their original EMI format utilizing standard EMI return codes.
- 74.8.1.2. Embarq may correct and resubmit to NuVox any messages returned to Embarq. Embarq will not be liable for any records determined by Embarq to be billable to a NuVox end user. NuVox will not return a message that has been corrected and resubmitted by Embarq. Embarq will only assume liability for errors and unguideables caused by Embarq.

### 75. GENERAL NETWORK REQUIREMENTS

- 75.1. Embarq shall provide repair, maintenance and testing for all resold Telecommunications Services and such UNEs that Embarq is able to test, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 75.2. During the term of this Agreement, Embarq shall provide necessary maintenance business process support as well as those technical and systems interfaces at Parity. Embarq shall provide NuVox with maintenance support at Parity.
- 75.3. Embarq shall provide on a regional basis, a point of contact for NuVox to report vital telephone maintenance issues and trouble reports twenty four (24) hours and seven (7) days a week.

- 75.4. Embarq shall provide NuVox maintenance dispatch personnel on the same schedule that it provides its own subscribers.
- 75.5. Embarq shall cooperate with NuVox to meet maintenance standards for all Telecommunications Services and unbundled network elements ordered under this Agreement. Such maintenance standards shall include, without limitation, standards for testing, network management, call gapping, and notification of upgrades as they become available.
- 75.6. All Embarq employees or contractors who perform repair service for NuVox end users shall follow Embarq standard procedures in all their communications with NuVox end users. These procedures and protocols shall ensure that:
- 75.6.1. Embarq employees or contractors shall perform repair service that is equal in quality to that provided to Embarq end users; and
- 75.6.2. Trouble calls from NuVox shall receive response time priority that is equal to that of Embarq end users and shall be handled on a "first come first served" basis regardless of whether the end user is a NuVox end user or a Embarq end user.
- 75.7. Embarq shall provide NuVox with scheduled maintenance for resold lines, including, without limitation, required and recommended maintenance intervals and procedures, for all Telecommunications Services and network elements provided to NuVox under this Agreement equal in quality to that currently provided by Embarq in the maintenance of its own network. NuVox shall perform its own testing for UNEs.
- 75.8. Embarq shall give maximum advanced notice to NuVox of all non-scheduled maintenance or other planned network activities to be performed by Embarq on any network element, including any hardware, equipment, software, or system, providing service functionality of which NuVox has advised Embarq may potentially impact NuVox end users.
- 75.9. Notice of Network Event. Each party has the duty to alert the other of any network events that can result or have resulted in service interruption, blocked calls, or negative changes in network performance.
- 75.10. On all misdirected calls from NuVox end users requesting repair, Embarq shall provide such NuVox end user with the correct NuVox repair telephone number as

such number is provided to Embarq by NuVox. Once the Electronic Interface is established between Embarq and NuVox, Embarq agrees that NuVox may report troubles directly to a single Embarq repair/maintenance center for both residential and small business end users, unless otherwise agreed to by NuVox.

75.11. Upon establishment of an Electronic Interface, Embarq shall notify NuVox via such electronic interface upon completion of trouble report. The report shall not be considered closed until such notification is made. NuVox will contact its end user to determine if repairs were completed and confirm the trouble no longer exists.

75.12. Embarq shall perform all testing for resold Telecommunications Services.

75.13. Embarq shall provide test results to NuVox, if appropriate, for trouble clearance. In all instances, Embarq shall provide NuVox with the disposition of the trouble.

75.14. If Embarq initiates trouble handling procedures, it will bear all costs associated with that activity. If NuVox requests the trouble dispatch, and either there is no trouble found, or the trouble is determined to be beyond the end user demarcation point, then NuVox will bear the cost.

## **76. MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS**

### **76.1. General**

76.1.1. To the extent that Embarq does not provide the services described in this Section 76 to itself, NuVox must contract directly with the service provider for such services.

#### **76.1.2. Basic 911 and E911 General Requirements**

76.1.2.1. Basic 911 and E911 provides a caller access to the appropriate emergency service bureau by dialing a 3-digit universal telephone number (911).

76.1.2.2. Basic 911 and E911 functions provided to NuVox for unbundled local switching and resale shall be at Parity with the support and services that Embarq provides to its subscribers for such similar functionality.

76.1.2.2.1. In a resale situation, where it may be

appropriate for Embarq to update the ALI database, Embarq shall update such database with NuVox data in an interval at Parity with that experienced by Embarq end users.

76.1.2.2.2. Embarq shall transmit to NuVox daily all changes, alterations, modifications, and updates to the emergency public agency telephone numbers linked to all NPA NXXs. This transmission shall be electronic and be a separate feed from the subscriber listing feed.

76.1.2.3. In government jurisdictions where Embarq has obligations under existing agreements as the primary provider of the 911 System to the county (Host Embarq), NuVox shall participate in the provision of the 911 System as follows:

76.1.2.3.1. Each party shall be responsible for those portions of the 911 System for which it has control, including any necessary maintenance to each party's portion of the 911 System.

76.1.2.3.2. Host Embarq shall be responsible for maintaining the E-911 database. Embarq shall be responsible for maintaining the E-911 routing database.

76.1.2.4. If a third party is the primary service provider to a government agency, NuVox shall negotiate separately with such third party with regard to the provision of 911 service to the agency. All relations between such third party and NuVox are totally separate from this Agreement and Embarq makes no representations on behalf of the third party.

76.1.3. The following are Basic 911 and E911 Database Requirements

76.1.3.1. The ALI database shall be managed by Embarq,

but is the property of Embarq and NuVox for those records provided by NuVox.

- 76.1.3.2. To the extent allowed by the governmental agency, and where available, copies of the SIG shall be provided within three business days from the time requested and provided on diskette, or in a format suitable for use with desktop computers.
- 76.1.3.3. NuVox shall be solely responsible for providing NuVox database records to Embarq for inclusion in Embarq's ALI database on a timely basis.
- 76.1.3.4. Embarq and NuVox shall arrange for the automated input and periodic updating of the E911 database information related to NuVox end users. Embarq shall work cooperatively with NuVox to ensure the accuracy of the data transfer by verifying it against the SIG. Embarq shall accept electronically transmitted files that conform to NENA Version #2 format.
- 76.1.3.5. NuVox shall assign an E911 database coordinator charged with the responsibility of forwarding NuVox end user ALI record information to Embarq or via a third-party entity, charged with the responsibility of ALI record transfer. NuVox assumes all responsibility for the accuracy of the data that NuVox provides to Embarq.
- 76.1.3.6. NuVox shall provide information on new subscribers to Embarq within one (1) business day of the order completion. Embarq shall update the database within two (2) business days of receiving the data from NuVox. If Embarq detects an error in the NuVox provided data, the data shall be

returned to NuVox within two (2) business days from when it was provided to Embarq. NuVox shall respond to requests from Embarq to make corrections to database record errors by uploading corrected records within two (2) business days. Manual entry shall be allowed only in the event that the system is not functioning properly.

- 76.1.3.7. Embarq agrees to treat all data on NuVox subscribers provided under this Agreement as confidential and to use data on NuVox subscribers only for the purpose of providing E911 services.

## 76.2. Directory Listings Service Requests

- 76.2.1. These requirements pertain to Embarq's Listings Service Request process that enables NuVox to (a) submit NuVox subscriber information for inclusion in Directory Listings databases; (b) submit NuVox subscriber information for inclusion in published directories; and (c) provide NuVox subscriber delivery address information to enable Embarq to fulfill directory distribution obligations.
- 76.2.2. When implemented by the Parties, Embarq shall accept orders on a real-time basis via electronic interface in accordance with OBF Directory Service Request standards within three (3) months of the effective date of this Agreement. In the interim, Embarq shall create a standard format and order process by which NuVox can place an order with a single point of contact within Embarq.
- 76.2.3. Embarq will provide to NuVox the following Directory Listing Migration Options, valid under all access methods, including but not limited to, Resale, UNEs and Facilities-Based:
  - 76.2.3.1. Migrate with no Changes. Retain all white page listings for the subscriber in both DA and DL. Transfer ownership and billing for white page listings to NuVox.
  - 76.2.3.2. Migrate with Additions. Retain all white page listings for the subscriber in DL. Incorporate the specified additional listings order. Transfer ownership and billing for the white

page listings to NuVox.

- 76.2.3.3. Migrate with Deletions. Retain all white page listings for the subscriber in DL. Delete the specified listings from the listing order. Transfer ownership and billing for the white page listings to NuVox.
- 76.2.3.4. To ensure accurate order processing, Embarq or its directory publisher shall provide to NuVox the following information, with updates promptly upon changes:
  - 76.2.3.5. A matrix of NXX to central office;
  - 76.2.3.6. Geographical maps if available of Embarq service area;
  - 76.2.3.7. A description of calling areas covered by each directory, including but not limited to maps of calling areas and matrices depicting calling privileges within and between calling areas;
  - 76.2.3.8. Listing format rules;
  - 76.2.3.9. Standard abbreviations acceptable for use in listings and addresses;
  - 76.2.3.10. Titles and designations; and
  - 76.2.3.11. A list of all available directories and their Business Office close dates
- 76.2.4. Based on changes submitted by NuVox, Embarq shall update and maintain directory listings data for NuVox subscribers who:
  - 76.2.4.1. Disconnect Service;
  - 76.2.4.2. Change CLEC;
  - 76.2.4.3. Install Service;
  - 76.2.4.4. Change any service which affects DA information;
  - 76.2.4.5. Specify Non-Solicitation; and
  - 76.2.4.6. Are Non-Published, Non-Listed, or Listed.



- 76.2.5. Embarq shall not charge for storage of NuVox subscriber information in the DL systems.
- 76.2.6. NuVox shall not charge for storage of Embarq subscriber information in the DL systems.
- 76.3. Directory Listings General Requirements. NuVox acknowledges that many directory functions including but not limited to yellow page listings, enhanced white page listings, information pages, directory proofing, and directory distribution are not performed by Embarq but rather are performed by and are under the control of the directory publisher. NuVox acknowledges that for a NuVox subscriber's name to appear in a directory, NuVox must submit a Directory Service Request (DSR). Embarq shall use reasonable efforts to assist NuVox in obtaining an agreement with the directory publisher that treats NuVox at Parity with the publisher's treatment of Embarq.
  - 76.3.1. This Section 76.3 pertains to listings requirements published in the traditional white pages.
  - 76.3.2. Embarq shall include in its master subscriber system database all white pages listing information for NuVox subscribers in Embarq territories where NuVox is providing local telephone exchange services and has submitted a DSR.
  - 76.3.3. Embarq agrees to include one basic White pages listing for each NuVox customer located within the geographic scope of its White Page directories, at no additional charge to NuVox. A basic White Pages listing is defined as a customer name, address and either the NuVox assigned number for a customer or the number for which number portability is provided, but not both numbers. Basic White Pages listings of NuVox customers will be interfiled with listings of Embarq and other LEC customers.
  - 76.3.4. NuVox agrees to provide NuVox customer listing information, including without limitation directory distribution information, to Embarq, at no charge. Embarq will provide NuVox with the appropriate format for provision of NuVox customer listing information to Embarq. The parties agree to adopt a mutually acceptable electronic format for the provision of such information as soon as practicable. In the event OBF

## **PART F - INTERCONNECTION**

### **56. LOCAL INTERCONNECTION TRUNK ARRANGEMENT**

56.1. The Parties shall reciprocally terminate Local Traffic and IntraLATA/InterLATA toll calls originating on the other Party's network as follows:

56.1.1. The Parties shall make available to each other two-way trunks for the reciprocal exchange of combined Local Traffic, and non-equal access IntraLATA toll traffic.

56.1.1.1. The Parties agree to use two-way trunks (one-way directionalized). The Parties shall transition all trunks from directionalized two-way trunks upon mutual agreement, absent engineering or billing issues.

56.1.2. Separate two-way trunks will be made available for the exchange of equal-access InterLATA or IntraLATA interexchange traffic.

56.1.3. Separate trunks will be utilized for connecting NuVox's switch to each 911/E911 tandem.

#### **56.2. Direct Interconnection Requirements**

56.2.1. Point of Interconnection. NuVox must establish a minimum of one POI within each LATA, at any technically feasible point, on Embarq's network. In addition, NuVox shall establish additional POIs under the following circumstances:

56.2.1.1. To the extent Embarq's network contains multiple tandems in the LATA, NuVox must establish a POI at each tandem where it wishes to exchange (i.e. receive or terminate) traffic with Embarq.

56.2.1.2. NuVox must establish a direct end office trunk at an Embarq end office when total traffic volumes exchanged between that particular Embarq end office and NuVox exceeds 8.9 million minutes of Local Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic per month for three consecutive months.

- 56.2.2. NuVox will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. Embarq will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. Each Party is financially responsible for transport on its side of the POI.
- 56.2.3. Each Party is financially responsible for transporting its originated traffic to the POI.
- 56.2.4. When the Parties choose to interconnect at a mid-span meet, NuVox and Embarq will jointly provision the facilities that connect the two networks. Embarq will be the “controlling carrier” for purposes of MECOD guidelines, as described in the joint implementation plan. Embarq will provide fifty percent (50%) of the facilities or to its exchange boundary, whichever is less. The construction of new facilities for a mid-span meet is only applicable when traffic is roughly balanced. Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, when the Parties interconnect using a mid-span meet, each Party will be financially responsible for the facilities on its side of the mid-span meet and will not bill the other Party for any portion of those facilities.
- 56.2.5. If third party (*i.e.* Competitive Access Provider or “CAP”) leased facilities are used for interconnection, the POI will be defined as the Embarq office in which the third party’s leased circuit terminates.
- 56.2.6. If NuVox elects to lease any portion of the transport facility from Embarq or if NuVox chooses to interconnect with Embarq using a meet-point arrangement (*i.e.* facilities jointly provisioned by Embarq and another LEC), NuVox will order those facilities that are wholly within Embarq’s serving territory from Embarq’s access tariff; provided however, that if NuVox is required by the terms of this agreement to interconnect at a Embarq end office, in addition to Embarq tandems, and if NuVox elects to purchase transport from Embarq to exchange 251(c)(5) traffic (non-ISP) traffic at such end office, NuVox may order such interconnection facilities at cost-based (*i.e.*, TELRIC) rates. Nothing in the paragraph should be deemed to supersede the proportionate cost recovery set forth in 47 CFR 51.709(b) with respect to Telecommunications (non-ISP bound) traffic.

### 56.3. Technical Requirements for Interconnection

#### 56.3.1. Interconnection at the Embarq Tandem

- 56.3.1.1. Interconnection to Embarq Tandem Switch(es) will provide NuVox local interconnection for local service purposes to the Embarq end offices and NXXs which subtend that tandem(s), where local trunking is provided, and access to the toll network.
- 56.3.1.2. Interconnection to a Embarq Tandem for transit purposes will provide access to telecommunications carriers which are connected to that Tandem Switch.
- 56.3.1.3. Where a Embarq Tandem Switch also provides End-Office Switch functions, interconnection to a Embarq tandem serving that exchange will also provide NuVox access to Embarq's end offices.

#### 56.3.2. Interconnection at the Embarq End Office

- 56.3.2.1. Interconnection to Embarq End Office Switch will provide NuVox local interconnection for local service purposes to the Embarq NXX codes served by that end office and any Embarq NXXs served by remotes that subtend those End Offices.

## 57. **INTERCARRIER COMPENSATION**

### 57.1. Compensation for Local Traffic Transport and Termination

- 57.1.1. The transport and termination charges for Local Traffic flowing through a POI shall be as follows:
  - 57.1.1.1. In a mid-span meet arrangement, when calls from NuVox are terminating on Embarq's network through the Embarq Tandem Switch, NuVox will pay Embarq a charge for Tandem Switching, common transport to the end office, and end-office termination.

- 57.1.1.2. When the POI is at the Embarq Tandem Switch, NuVox shall pay a charge for Tandem Switching, common transport to the end office and end-office termination.
- 57.1.1.3. Charges billed to Embarq by NuVox for the transport and termination of Local Traffic will be equal to those that Embarq assesses the NuVox for the same services. Where NuVox is interconnected at a Embarq tandem and Embarq delivers its traffic to NuVox directly from an end office, Embarq shall pay NuVox end office termination. Where NuVox is interconnected at an Embarq tandem and Embarq delivers its traffic to NuVox from the tandem and the NuVox switch serves a geographical area comparable to the area served by the Embarq tandem, Embarq shall pay NuVox for Tandem Switching, common transport, and end-office termination. If the NuVox switch serves a geographical area that is not comparable to the area served by the Embarq tandem, Embarq shall pay NuVox end-office termination.
- 57.1.1.4. To validate the geographic area NuVox must provide documentation supporting the following:
  - 57.1.1.4.1.1. that NuVox's switch serves a geographic area that is roughly the same size as the area served by the Embarq Tandem Switch;
  - 57.1.1.4.1.2. that NuVox has obtained NPA/NXX codes to serve the exchanges within the geographic area; and,
  - 57.1.1.4.1.3. that NuVox is serving the area using its own switch with its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and leased facilities connected to its collocation arrangements.
- 57.1.1.5. Where direct end office trunks are established, for

NuVox-originated calls, NuVox shall pay Embarq end-office termination. For Embarq originated traffic terminating to NuVox from that end office, compensation payable by Embarq shall be the same as that detailed in Section 57.1.1.3 above.

57.2. The rates to be charged for the exchange of Local Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic are set forth in Table One and shall be applied consistent with the provisions of Part F of this Agreement.

57.2.1. The Parties agree that by executing this Agreement and carrying out the intercarrier compensation rates, terms and conditions herein, neither Party waives any of its rights, and expressly reserves all of its rights, under the *Order on Remand and Report and Order*, FCC 01-131, CC Dockets No. 96-98 and 99-68, adopted April 18, 2001 (the "ISP Remand Order"), including but not limited to Embarq's option to invoke on a date specified by Embarq the FCC's ISP interim compensation regime, after which date ISP-bound traffic will be subject to the FCC's prescribed interim compensation regime including the terminating compensation rates, and other terms and conditions. NuVox agrees that on the date designated by ILEC, the Parties will begin billing Reciprocal Compensation to each other at the rates, terms and conditions specified in the FCC's ISP Remand Order as modified by the *Core Forbearance Order*, FCC 04-241, WC Docket No. 03-171, adopted October 8, 2004, unless the Parties are exchanging traffic (Local Traffic and/or ISP-Bound traffic) at Bill and Keep, such Bill and Keep arrangement shall continue.

57.3. Compensation for the termination of toll traffic and the origination of 800 traffic between the interconnecting parties shall be based on the applicable access charges in accordance with FCC and Commission Rules and Regulations and consistent with the provisions of Part F of this Agreement. If NuVox is acting as an IXC and a competitive local exchange carrier, NuVox must have a unique CIC for each type of service order. Specifically, NuVox must have two CICs, one that is used for ordering IXC facilities for interexchange toll traffic and one that is used to order facilities for local exchange traffic.

- 57.4. Calls terminated to end users physically located outside the local calling area in which their NPA/NXXs are homed (Virtual NXXs or VNXXs), are not local calls for purposes of intercarrier compensation and originating access charges shall apply. For NuVox or EMBARQ-originated traffic terminated to the other Party's Virtual NXXs, neither Party shall be obligated to pay reciprocal compensation, including any shared interconnection facility costs, for such traffic. Both Parties represent and warrant that they are not exchanging Virtual NXX traffic as of the effective date of this Agreement; however, if either Party should begin using Virtual NXXs, the Party using such VNXXs shall notify the other Party and the Parties shall negotiate a factor to determine the amount of traffic that will be presumed to be Virtual NXX traffic (subject to audit and modification, as necessary).
- 57.5. Voice over internet protocol ("VoIP") traffic that meets the following criteria is a telecommunications service and is subject to interstate and intrastate access charges payable by either Party to the same extent that telecommunications traffic is subject to interstate or intrastate access charges (*e.g.*, not Local Traffic):
- (1) uses ordinary customer premises equipment (CPE) with no enhanced functionality;
  - (2) originates and terminates on the public switched telephone network (PSTN); and
  - (3) undergoes no net protocol conversion and provides no enhanced functionality to end users due to the provider's use of IP technology.
- 57.6. The Parties disagree on the appropriate compensation for VoIP traffic that does not meet the above criteria. Both Parties reserve the right to bill for traffic and pursue compensation for traffic that does not meet the criteria above, including invoking the Dispute Resolution provisions of this Agreement. Neither Party waives its rights to participate and fully present its respective positions in any proceeding before the Commission, FCC or other authority with jurisdiction dealing with voice over internet protocol traffic.
- 57.7. A call placed on a non-local basis (*e.g.*, a toll call or 8yy call) to an ISP shall not be treated as ISP-Bound Traffic for compensation purposes. The Parties agree

that, to the extent such "non-Local" ISP calls are placed, that the rates, terms and conditions for IntraLATA and/or InterLATA calling shall apply, including but not limited to rating and routing according to the terminating parties' Exchange Access intrastate and/or interstate tariffs.

- 57.8. NuVox will update its Percent Local Usage (PLU) factor on a quarterly basis. NuVox will identify the PLU factor on each interconnection order to identify its "Local Traffic," as defined herein, for reciprocal compensation purposes. The current quarterly PLU factor shall control. Either Party may request the other's traffic study documentation of the PLU at any time to verify the factor, and may compare the documentation to studies developed by Embarq. Should the documentation indicate that the factor should be changed; the Parties agree that any changes will be retroactive up to one year. For non-local traffic, the Parties agree to exchange traffic and compensate one another based on the rates and elements included in each party's access tariffs. NuVox will transmit calling party number (CPN) as required by FCC rules (47 C.F.R. 64.1601).

57.8.1. To the extent technically feasible, each Party will transmit calling party number (CPN) for each call being terminated on the other's network. If the percentage of calls transmitted with CPN is greater than 90%, all calls exchanged without CPN will be billed as local or intrastate in proportion to the MOUs of calls exchanged with CPN. If the percentage of calls transmitted with CPN is less than 90%, all calls transmitted without CPN will be billed at intrastate access rates.

## **58. SIGNALING NETWORK INTERCONNECTION**

- 58.1. Embarq will offer interconnection to its signaling transfer points (STPs) for NuVox switches which connect to Embarq's STPs via "A" links or for NuVox's "B" or "D" links which are dedicated to the transport of signaling for local interconnection.
- 58.2. Signaling protocol. The parties will interconnect their networks using SS7 signaling where technically feasible and available as defined in FR 905 Telcordia Standards including ISDN User Part (ISUP) for trunk signaling and TCAP for CCS-based features in the interconnection of their networks. All Network Operations Forum (NOF) adopted standards shall be adhered to.



- 58.3. Standard interconnection facilities shall be Extended Superframe (ESF) with B8ZS line code. Where ESF/B8ZS is not available, NuVox will use other interconnection protocols on an interim basis until the standard ESF/B8ZS is available. Embarq will provide anticipated dates of availability for those areas not currently ESF/B8ZS compatible.
- 58.4. Where NuVox is unwilling to utilize an alternate interconnection protocol, NuVox will provide Embarq an initial forecast of 64 Kbps clear channel capability ("64K CCC") trunk quantities within thirty (30) Days of the Effective Date consistent with the forecasting agreements between the parties. Upon receipt of this forecast, the parties will begin joint planning for the engineering, procurement, and installation of the segregated 64K CCC Local Interconnection Trunk Groups, and the associated ESF facilities, for the sole purpose of transmitting 64K CCC data calls between NuVox and Embarq. Where additional equipment is required, such equipment would be obtained, engineered, and installed on the same basis and with the same intervals as any similar growth job for IXC, NuVox, or Embarq internal customer demand for 64K CCC trunks.
- 58.5. Signaling Systems
- 58.5.1. Signaling Link Transport
- 58.5.1.1. Signaling Link Transport is a set of two or four dedicated 56 Kbps transmission paths between NuVox-designated Signaling Points of Interconnection (SPOI) that provides appropriate physical diversity and a cross connect at a Embarq STP site.
- 58.5.1.2. Technical Requirements. Signaling Link transport shall consist of full duplex mode 56 Kbps transmission paths.
- 58.5.2. Signaling Transfer Points (STPs)
- 58.5.2.1. STPs provide functionality that enables the exchange of SS7 messages among and between switching elements, databases and third party signaling transfer points.
- 58.6. Technical Requirements. STPs provide interconnection to the functions of signaling networks or to third party SS7 networks connected to the Embarq SS7 network. These functions include:

- 58.6.1. Embarq local switching or Tandem Switching;
  - 58.6.2. Embarq Service Control Points (SCPs)/Databases if arranged for under separate agreements;
  - 58.6.3. Third-party local or Tandem Switching systems subject to any additional conditions or terms of the Third Party and
  - 58.6.4. Third party provider STPs subject to any additional conditions or terms of the Third Party.
- 58.7. Interface Requirements. Embarq shall provide the following STP options to connect NuVox or NuVox-designated local switching systems or STPs to the Embarq SS7 network:
- 58.7.1. An A-link interface from NuVox local switching systems; and
  - 58.7.2. B- or D-link interface from NuVox STPs.
  - 58.7.3. Each type of interface shall be provided by one or more sets (layers) of signaling links, as follows:
    - 58.7.3.1. An A-link layer shall consist of two links,
    - 58.7.3.2. A B- or D-link layer shall consist of four links,
- 58.8. Signaling Point of Interconnection (SPOI) for each link shall be located at a cross-connect element, such as a DSX-1, in the Central Office (CO) where the Embarq STP is located. Interface to Embarq's STP shall be the 56kb rate. The 56kb rate can be part of a larger facility, and NuVox shall pay multiplexing/demultiplexing and channel termination, plus mileage of any leased facility.

## **59. TRUNK FORECASTING**

- 59.1. NuVox shall provide forecasts for traffic utilization over trunk groups. For avoidance of doubt, any such forecasts shall be treated as Confidential Information pursuant to Section 14. Orders for trunks that exceed forecasted quantities for forecasted locations will be accommodated as facilities and/or equipment are available. Embarq shall make all reasonable efforts and cooperate in good faith to develop alternative solutions to accommodate orders when

facilities are not available. Company trunk forecast information must be provided by NuVox to Embarq at or prior to the initial Network implementation meeting between the Parties and any subsequent trunk implementation or augmentation call or meeting scheduled by the Embarq Account Manager. There will typically be an associated Local Interconnection POI Profile form with the NuVox Interconnection Trunk Forecast form. Both forms compliment each other and must be returned simultaneously to the appropriate Wholesale Markets Field sales Manager for processing. The initial trunk forecast meeting should take place soon after the first implementation meeting. The updated forecasts shall project trunk gain/loss on a monthly basis for the forecast period, and shall include:

- 59.1.1. Forecasted trunk quantities (which include baseline data that reflect actual Tandem and end office Local Interconnection and meet point trunks and Tandem-subtending Local Interconnection end office equivalent trunk requirements) for no more than two years (current plus one year);
- 59.1.2. The use of Common Language Location Identifier (CLLI-MSG), which are described in Telcordia documents BR 795-100-100 and BR 795-400-100;
- 59.1.3. Description of major network projects that affect the other Party will be provided in the semi-annual forecasts, to the extent known. Major network projects include but are not limited to trunking or network rearrangements, shifts in anticipated traffic patterns, or other activities by NuVox that are reflected by a significant increase or decrease in trunking demand for the following forecasting period.
- 59.1.4. Parties shall meet to review and reconcile the forecasts if forecasts vary significantly.
- 59.2. NuVox shall provide an updated trunk forecast when ordering or requesting additional trunks from Embarq anytime after the initial trunk implementation.
- 59.3. Each Party shall provide a specified point of contact for planning forecasting and trunk servicing purposes.

- 59.4. Trunking can be established to Tandems or end offices or a combination of both via either one-way or two-way trunks. Trunking will be at the DS-0, DS-1, DS-3/OC-3 level, or higher, as agreed upon by NuVox and Embarq.
- 59.5. The parties agree to abide by the following if a forecast cannot be agreed to: local interconnection trunk groups will be provisioned to the higher forecast. A blocking standard of one percent (1%) during the average busy hour shall be maintained. Should the Parties not agree upon the forecast, and the Parties engineer facilities at the higher forecast, the Parties agree to abide by the following:
- 59.5.1. In the event that NuVox over-forecasts its trunking requirements by twenty percent (20%) or more, and Embarq acts upon this forecast to its detriment, Embarq may recoup any actual and reasonable expense it incurs.
- 59.5.2. The calculation of the twenty percent (20%) over-forecast will be based on the number of DS-1 equivalents for the total traffic volume to Embarq.
- 59.5.3. Expenses will only be recouped for non-recoverable facilities that cannot otherwise be used at any time within twelve (12) months after the initial installation for another purpose including but not limited to: other traffic growth between the Parties, internal use, or use with another party.
- 59.6. Grade of Service. An overall blocking standard of one percent (1%) during the average busy hour, as defined by each Party's standards, for final trunk groups between a NuVox end office and a Embarq access Tandem carrying meet point traffic shall be maintained. All other Tandem trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (1%). Direct end office trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (1%).
- 59.7. Trunk Servicing. Orders between the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect trunks shall be processed by use of an ASR, RASR or other industry standard format as specified by Embarq for trunk ordering.

## **60. NETWORK MANAGEMENT**

- 60.1. Protective Protocols. Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps on traffic toward each other's network, when required to protect the public switched network from congestion due to facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload. NuVox and Embarq will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.
- 60.2. Expansive Protocols. Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes will not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls will only be used when mutually agreed to by the parties.
- 60.3. Mass Calling. NuVox and Embarq shall cooperate and share pre-planning information, where available, regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes, to prevent or mitigate the impact of these events on the public switched network.

## **61. TRANSIT TRAFFIC**

- 61.1. Transit Service means the delivery of Transit Traffic, i.e. Local Traffic or ISP-Bound Traffic that originated one Party's network, transited through the other Party's network, and terminated to a third party or that originated by a third party transited through a Party's network and terminated to the other Party's network
- 61.2. To the extent network and contractual arrangements exist with all necessary parties throughout the term of this Agreement, and where indirectly interconnected parties have an interconnection to the same Embarq tandem, Embarq will provide Transit Services for NuVox's connection of its end user to a local end user of: (1) CLECs, (2) an ILEC other than Embarq, and (3) other CMRS carriers.
- 61.3. Each Party may require separate trunking for the delivery of such Transit Traffic in order to accurately measure and bill it.

#### 61.4. Terms and Conditions

61.4.1. Each Party acknowledges that a third-party LEC may block transit traffic. To the extent the originated Party's traffic is blocked by a third party, the transiting party shall have no obligation to resolve the dispute. Each Party acknowledges that the transiting party does not have any responsibility to pay any third-party Telecommunications Carrier charges for termination of any identifiable Transit Traffic from the originating Party. Each Party acknowledges that it is the originating Party's responsibility to enter into arrangements with each third party LEC, CLEC, or CMRS provider for the exchange of transit traffic to that third party.

61.4.2. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, once the Transit Traffic volume between CLEC/CMRS and a third party exceeds the equivalent of three (3) DS1s of traffic, Embarq may, but shall not be obligated to require CLEC/CMRS to establish a direct connection with to the parties to whom they are sending traffic. Embarq also reserves the right to require CLEC/CMRS to establish a direct connection to the third party if, in Embarq's sole discretion, the tandem is at or approaching capacity limitations. These limitations may include but are not limited to a lack of trunk port capacity or processor capacity based on the then existing tandem and network configuration. Within 90 days after Embarq notifies CLEC/CMRS of the requirement to direct connect, CLEC/CMRS shall establish a direct interconnection with such third party. After ninety (90) days, if CLEC/CMRS has not established a direct interconnection, Embarq may thereafter charge CLEC/CMRS for such transit service at Intrastate Access rates, or Embarq may discontinue providing transit service to CLEC/CMRS, at the sole discretion of Embarq, provided however, that Embarq shall exercise such discretion in a non-discriminatory manner.

#### 61.5. Payment Terms and Conditions

61.5.1. The originating Party shall pay the transiting party a transit service charge as set forth in Table One.

- 61.5.2. NuVox shall pay a transit rate as set forth in Table One of this Part when NuVox uses a Embarq access tandem to terminate a local or ISP-bound call to a third party LEC, CLEC or CMRS provider. Embarq shall pay NuVox a transit rate equal to the Embarq rate referenced above when Embarq uses a NuVox switch to terminate a local call or ISP-Bound call to a third party LEC, CLEC or CMRS provider.

#### 61.6. Billing Records and Exchange of Data

- 61.6.1. Parties will use their best efforts to convert all networks transporting transit traffic to deliver each call to the other Party's network with SS7 Common Channel Interoffice Signaling (CCIS) and other appropriate TCAP messages in order to facilitate full interoperability and billing functions. The Parties agree to send all message indicators, including originating telephone number, local routing number and CIC.
- 61.6.2. Upon request by the terminating Party and to the extent possible, the transiting Party agrees to provide the terminating Party information on traffic originated by a third party CLECs or CMRS provider. To the extent a Party incurs additional cost in providing this billing information, the other Party agrees to reimburse the transiting Party for its direct costs of providing this information.
- 61.6.3. To the extent that the industry adopts a standard record format for recording originating and/or terminating transit calls, both Parties agree to comply with the industry-adopted format to exchange records.

### 62. INDIRECT TRAFFIC

#### 62.1. Interconnection

- 62.1.1. The Parties may send each other Indirect Traffic.
- 62.1.2. For purposes of exchanging Indirect Traffic there is no physical or direct point of interconnection between the Parties, therefore neither Party is required to construct new facilities or make mid-span meet arrangements available to the other Party for Indirect Traffic.
- 62.1.3. The Parties will utilize best efforts to avoid sending Indirect Traffic where NuVox is not interconnected at the tandem switch which

Embarq's end office subtends. (i.e., double tandem indirect traffic.) The terminating Party may request that the originating Party cease sending such double tandem indirect traffic or reimburse the terminating Party for additional costs actually incurred. If the originating Party does not either cease sending such traffic or agreeing to pay such additional costs, the terminating Party may invoke the dispute resolution provisions of this Agreement.

- 62.1.4. Indirect interconnection will provide the Party with access to the other Party's end-users for the local and toll service purposes.
- 62.1.5. NuVox must establish direct end office trunking at any Embarq end office that subtends a non-Embarq tandem when total Indirect traffic volumes exchanged between that particular Embarq end office and NuVox exceeds a DS1 level of Local Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic per month for three consecutive months. Embarq shall inform NuVox when traffic volumes exceed this level at an Embarq end office. NuVox shall then have ninety (90) days from the date of such notification to establish direct end office trunking to such end office

## 62.2. Exchange Of Traffic

- 62.2.1. Each Party acknowledges that it is the originating Party's responsibility to enter into transiting arrangements with the third party providing the transit services.
- 62.2.2. Each terminating Party is responsible for billing the originating company for traffic terminated on its respective network. For this Indirect Traffic, the originating Party will provide the originating billing information to the terminating Party, if technically feasible. If the originating Party cannot provide the originating billing information to the terminating Party, then the terminating Party must obtain the originating billing information from the third-party transit company. Any costs incurred by the terminating Party in obtaining the records, and costs incurred in manual billing, will be billed back to the originating Party.
- 62.2.3. It is each Party's responsibility to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements with the third-party transit company in order to obtain the



originating billing information from the transit company.

62.2.4. Until Indirect traffic exceeds a DS1, each Party is responsible for the payment of transit charges for its originating traffic assessed by the transiting party. After Indirect traffic exceeds a DS1, if NuVox has not established a direct end office trunking 90 days after Embarq notifies NuVox in accordance with section 20, NuVox will reimburse Embarq for any transit charges billed by an intermediary carrier for Local Traffic or ISP-Bound Traffic originated by Embarq.

### 62.3. Compensation for Indirect Traffic

#### 62.3.1. Non-Local and Non-ISP-Bound Indirect Traffic

62.3.1.1. Compensation for the termination of non-Local traffic, non-ISP-Bound Traffic and the origination of 800 traffic between the interconnecting Parties shall be based on the applicable access charges in accordance with FCC and Commission Rules and Regulations.

62.3.1.2. Toll traffic, switched access, and special access traffic, if separately chargeable, shall be charged the appropriate rate out of the terminating LEC's tariff or via other appropriate meet point access arrangements. Where exact transport mileage is not available, an average, arrived at by mutual agreement of the Parties, will be used.

62.3.2. Local Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic. The rates set forth on Table One shall apply, in accordance with Section 57.1.

#### 62.3.2.1. Indirect Traffic Terminating to Embarq

62.3.2.2. Each rate element utilized in completing a call shall be charged for completion of that call. For example, a call terminating from CLEC through the transiting party, and over Embarq facilities to a Embarq End Office Switch would include charges from Embarq to NuVox for Common Transport to the End Office Switch and End Office switching. A call terminating from CLEC though the transiting party, and then over Embarq facilities through Embarq End Office Switch to a Embarq

Remote Switch would include charges from Embarq to NuVox for Common Transport to the End Office Switch (except where the transiting party is collocated in the Embarq End Office), End Office switching, and Common Transport to the Remote Switch.

62.3.2.3. Indirect Traffic Terminating to NuVox:

62.3.2.4. For Indirect Traffic terminating on NuVox's network, NuVox will bill Embarq the same rates as Embarq charges NuVox for Indirect Local Traffic terminating on Embarq's network in accordance with Section 57.

### **63. USAGE MEASUREMENT**

- 63.1. Each Party shall calculate terminating interconnection minutes of use based on standard AMA recordings made within each Party's network, these recordings being necessary for each Party to generate bills to the other Party. In the event either Party cannot measure minutes terminating on its network where technically feasible, the other Party shall provide the measuring mechanism or the Parties shall otherwise agree on an alternate arrangement.
- 63.2. Measurement of minutes of use over Local Interconnection trunk groups shall be in actual conversation seconds. The total conversation seconds over each individual Local Interconnection trunk group will be totaled for the entire monthly bill period and then rounded to the next whole minute.
- 63.3. Prior to the commencement of billing for interconnection, each Party shall provide to the other, the PLU of the traffic terminated to each other over the Local Interconnection trunk groups.

### **64. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

- 64.1. Embarq and NuVox will review engineering requirements consistent with the Implementation Plan described in Part B, Part C, Part F and as otherwise set forth in this Agreement.
- 64.2. NuVox and Embarq shall share responsibility for all Control Office functions for Local Interconnection Trunks and Trunk Groups, and both parties shall share the

overall coordination, installation, and maintenance responsibilities for these trunks and trunk groups.

64.3. NuVox and Embarq shall:

- 64.3.1. Provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians.
- 64.3.2. Notify each other when there is any change affecting the service requested, including the due date.
- 64.3.3. Coordinate and schedule testing activities of their own personnel, and others as applicable, to ensure its interconnection trunks/trunk groups are installed per the interconnection order, meet agreed-upon acceptance test requirements, and are placed in service by the due date.
- 64.3.4. Perform sectionalization to determine if a trouble is located in its facility or its portion of the interconnection trunks prior to referring the trouble to each other.
- 64.3.5. Advise each other's Control Office if there is an equipment failure which may affect the interconnection trunks.
- 64.3.6. Provide each other with a trouble reporting/repair contact number that is readily accessible and available twenty-four (24) hours/seven (7) days a week. Any changes to this contact arrangement must be immediately provided to the other party.
- 64.3.7. Provide to each other test-line numbers and access to test lines.
- 64.3.8. Cooperatively plan and implement coordinated repair procedures for the meet point and Local Interconnection trunks and facilities to ensure trouble reports are resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.

## **PART G - LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY**

### **65. INTRODUCTION**

- 65.1. Upon implementation of LNP, both Parties agree to conform and provide such LNP pursuant to FCC regulations and compliance with the Industry Forum Guidelines. To the extent consistent with the FCC and Industry Guidelines as amended from time to time, the requirements for LNP shall include the following:
- 65.2. End users must be able to change local service providers and retain the same telephone number(s) within the serving rate center utilizing the portability method as defined by the FCC.
- 65.3. The LNP network architecture shall not subject Parties to any degradation of service in any relevant measure, including transmission quality, switching and transport costs, increased call set-up time and post-dial delay.
  - 65.3.1. Parties agree that when an NXX is defined as portable, it shall also be defined as portable in all LNP capable switches serving the rate center.
  - 65.3.2. When an end user ports to another service provider and has previously secured a reservation of line numbers from the donor provider under contract or tariff for possible activation at some future point, these reserved but inactive numbers shall port along with the active numbers being ported by the end user.
  - 65.3.3. NXX Availability. Not all NXXs in each CO may be available for porting.
  - 65.3.4. LERG Reassignment. Portability for an entire NXX shall be provided by utilizing reassignment of the NXX to NuVox through the LERG.
  - 65.3.5. Coordination of service order work outside normal business hours (8:00AM to 5:00PM) shall be at requesting Party's expense. Premium rates will apply for service order work performed outside normal business hours, weekends, and holidays.
  - 65.3.6. Mass Calling Events. Parties will notify each other at least seven (7) Days in advance where ported numbers are utilized. Parties will only port mass calling numbers using switch translations and a choke network

for call routing. Porting on mass calling numbers will be handled outside the normal porting process and comply with any applicable federal regulatory requirements or industry guidelines developed for mass calling numbers.

## **66. TESTING**

- 66.1. An Interconnection Agreement (or Memorandum of Understanding, or Porting Agreement) detailing conditions for LNP must be in effect between the Parties prior to testing.
- 66.2. Testing and operational issues will be addressed in the implementation plans as described in Part B, Section 33 of the agreement.
- 66.3. NuVox must be NPAC certified and have met Embarq testing parameters prior to activating LNP. After initial LNP implementation by a CLEC/CMRS provider testing and porting will be done at NuVox's expense.
- 66.4. Parties will cooperate to ensure effective maintenance testing through activities such as routine testing practices, network trouble isolation processes and review of operational elements for translations, routing and network fault isolation.
- 66.5. Parties shall cooperate in testing performed to ensure interconnectivity between systems. All LNP providers shall notify each connected provider of any system updates that may affect the NuVox or Embarq network. Each LNP provider shall, at each other's request, jointly perform tests to validate the operation of the network. Additional testing requirements may apply as specified by this Agreement or in the Implementation Plan.

## **67. ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE**

- 67.1. Each LNP provider will monitor and perform effective maintenance through testing and the performance of proactive maintenance activities such as routine testing, development of and adherence to appropriate network trouble isolation processes and periodic review of operational elements for translations, routing and network faults.
- 67.2. It will be the responsibility of the Parties to ensure that the network is stable and maintenance and performance levels are maintained in accordance with state

commission requirements. It will be the responsibility of the Parties to perform fault isolation in their network before involving other providers.

- 67.3. Additional engineering and maintenance requirements shall apply as specified in this Agreement or the Implementation Plan.

**68. E911/911**

- 68.1. When a subscriber ports to another service provider, the donor provider shall unlock the information in the 911/ALI database. The porting provider is responsible for updating the 911 tandem switch routing tables and 911/ALI database to correctly route, and provide accurate information to the PSAP call centers.
- 68.2. Prior to implementation of LNP, the Parties agree to develop, implement, and maintain efficient methods to maintain 911 database integrity when a subscriber ports to another service provider. The Parties agree that the customer shall not be dropped from the 911 database during the transition.

**69. BILLING FOR PORTED NUMBERS**

- 69.1. When an IXC terminates an InterLATA or IntraLATA toll call to either party's local exchange customer whose telephone number has been ported from one party to the other, the parties agree that the party to whom the number has been ported shall be entitled to revenue from the IXC for those access elements it actually provides including, but not limited to end office switching, local transport, RIC, and CCL. The party from whom the number has been ported shall be entitled to receive revenue from the IXC for those access elements it actually provides including, but not limited to any entrance facility fees, access tandem fees and appropriate local transport charges.
- 69.2. Non-Payment. Customers lose the right to the ported telephone number upon suspension of service. Embarq will not port telephone numbers of customers whose service has been suspended.

## **PART H – NON-251 SERVICES**

### **70. CALL-RELATED DATABASES**

70.1. Embarq will offer access to call-related databases (non-251 services), including, but not limited to, Toll Free Calling database, Number Portability database, and Calling Name (CNAM) database. Embarq reserves the right to decline to offer access to certain AIN software that qualifies for proprietary treatment. The rates for access to these call-related databases are set forth on Table One.

70.1.1. The CNAM database is a transaction-oriented database accessible via the CCS network. CNAM provides the calling parties' name to be delivered and displayed to the terminating caller with 'Caller ID with Name'. Use of Embarq's CNAM Database by NuVox and NuVox's customers is limited to obtaining CNAM responses and using the information contained in those responses only on a call by call basis and only to support service related to a call in progress. NuVox will not capture, cache, or store any information contained in a CNAM response.

70.1.2. The Toll Free Number Database provides functionality necessary for toll free (e.g., 800 and 888) number services by providing routing information and additional vertical features (i.e., time of day routing by location, by carrier and routing to multiple geographic locations) during call setup in response to queries from NuVox's switch. Use of Embarq's Toll Free Database by NuVox and its customers is limited to obtaining information, on a call-by-call basis, for proper routing of calls in the provision of toll free exchange access service or local toll free service.

70.1.3. Local Number Portability Local Routing Query Service. TCAP messages originated by NuVox's SSPs and received by Embarq's database will be provided a response upon completion of a database lookup to determine the LRN. This information will be populated in industry standard format and returned to NuVox so that it can then terminate the call in progress to the telephone number now residing in the switch designated by the LRN.

70.1.3.1. NuVox agrees to obtain, prior to the initiation of any LNP query, a NPAC/SMS User Agreement with Neustar. NuVox

will maintain the NPAC/SMS User Agreement with Neustar, or its successor, as long as it continues to make LNP queries to the Embarq database. Failure to obtain and maintain the NPAC/SMS User Agreement is considered a breach of this Agreement and is cause for immediate termination of service. Embarq shall not be liable for any direct or consequential damages due to termination because of lack of a NPAC/SMS User Agreement.

- 70.1.3.2. Embarq's LNP Database service offering does not include the cost of any charges or assessments by Number Portability Administrative Centers, whether under the NPAC/SMS User Agreement with Lockheed, or otherwise, or any charges assessed directly against NuVox as the result of the FCC LNP Orders or otherwise by any third-party. These costs include the costs assessed against telecommunications carriers to pay for NPAC functions as permitted by the FCC and applicable legal or regulatory bodies. Embarq shall have no liability to NuVox or the NPAC for any of these fees or charges applicable to NuVox, even though it may pay such charges for other Embarq companies.



## **PART I - GENERAL BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS**

### **71. PROCEDURES**

#### **71.1. Contact with End Users**

71.1.1. Each Party at all times shall be the primary contact and account control for all interactions with its end users, except as specified by that Party. Subscribers include active end users as well as those for whom service orders are pending.

71.1.2. Each Party shall ensure that any of its personnel who may receive end user inquiries, or otherwise have opportunity for end user contact from the other Party's end user regarding the other Party's services: (i) provide appropriate referrals to subscribers who inquire about the other Party's services or products; (ii) do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party, or its products or services; and (iii) do not provide information about its products or services during that same inquiry or end user contact.

71.1.3. Embarq shall not use NuVox's request for end user information, order submission, or any other aspect of NuVox's processes or services to aid Embarq's marketing or sales efforts.

#### **71.2. Expedite and Escalation Procedures**

71.2.1. Embarq and NuVox shall develop mutually acceptable escalation and expedite procedures which may be invoked at any point in the Service Ordering, Provisioning, Maintenance, and Subscriber Usage Data transfer processes to facilitate rapid and timely resolution of disputes. In addition, Embarq and NuVox will establish intercompany contacts lists for purposes of handling end user and other matters which require attention/resolution outside of normal business procedures within thirty (30) Days after NuVox's request. Each party shall notify the other party of any changes to its escalation contact list as soon as practicable before such changes are effective.

- 71.2.2. No later than thirty (30) Days after NuVox's request Embarq shall provide NuVox with contingency plans for those cases in which normal Service Ordering, Provisioning, Maintenance, Billing, and other procedures for Embarq's unbundled Network Elements, features, functions, and resale services are inoperable.
- 71.3. Subscriber of Record. Embarq shall recognize NuVox as the Subscriber of Record for all Network Elements or services for resale ordered by NuVox and shall send all notices, invoices, and information which pertain to such ordered services directly to NuVox. NuVox will provide Embarq with addresses to which Embarq shall send all such notices, invoices, and information.
- 71.4. Service Offerings
- 71.4.1. Embarq shall provide NuVox with access to new services, features and functions concurrent with Embarq's notice to NuVox of such changes, if such service, feature or function is installed and available in the network or as soon thereafter as it is installed and available in the network, so that NuVox may conduct market testing.
- 71.4.2. Essential Services. For purposes of service restoral, Embarq shall designate a NuVox access line as an Essential Service Line (ESL) at Parity with Embarq's treatment of its own end users and applicable state law or regulation, if any.
- 71.4.3. Blocking Services. Upon request from NuVox, employing Embarq-approved LSR documentation, Embarq shall provide blocking of 700, 900, and 976 services, or other services of similar type as may now exist or be developed in the future, and shall provide Billed Number Screening (BNS), including required LIDB updates, or equivalent service for blocking completion of bill-to-third party and collect calls, on a line, PBX, or individual service basis. Blocking shall be provided to the extent (a) it is an available option for the Telecommunications Service resold by NuVox, or (b) it is technically feasible when requested by NuVox as a function of unbundled Network Elements.
- 71.4.4. Training Support. Embarq shall provide training, on a non-discriminatory basis, for all Embarq employees who may communicate, either by telephone or face-to-face, with NuVox end users. Such

training shall include compliance with the branding requirements of this Agreement including without limitation provisions of forms, and unbranded “Not at Home” notices.

## **72. ORDERING AND PROVISIONING**

72.1. Ordering and Provisioning Parity. Embarq shall provide necessary ordering and provisioning business process support as well as those technical and systems interfaces as may be required to enable NuVox to provide the same level and quality of service for all resale services, functions, features, capabilities and unbundled Network Elements at Parity.

72.2. National Exchange Access Center (NEAC)

72.2.1. Embarq shall provide a NEAC or equivalent which shall serve as NuVox’s point of contact for all activities involved in the ordering and provisioning of Embarq’s unbundled Network Elements, features, functions, and resale services.

72.2.2. The NEAC shall provide to NuVox a nationwide telephone number (available from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, and 8:00 am through 5:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time on Saturday) answered by competent, knowledgeable personnel trained to answer questions and resolve problems in connection with the ordering and provisioning of unbundled Network Elements (except those associated with local trunking interconnection), features, functions, capabilities, and resale services.

72.2.3. Embarq shall provide, as requested by NuVox, through the NEAC, provisioning and premises visit installation support in the form of coordinated scheduling, status, and dispatch capabilities during Embarq’s standard business hours and at other times as agreed upon by the parties to meet end user demand.

72.3. Street Index Guide (SIG). Within thirty (30) Days of NuVox’s written request, Embarq shall provide to NuVox the SIG data in the National Emergency Number Association Two (NENA2) format. A CDROM containing the SIG data will be shipped to NuVox’s designated contact on a monthly basis until the request is cancelled.

72.4. CLASS and Custom Features. Where generally available in Embarq's serving area, NuVox, at the tariff rate, may order the entire set of CLASS, CENTREX and Custom features and functions, or a subset of any one of such features.

72.5. Number Administration/Number Reservation

72.5.1. Embarq shall provide testing and loading of NuVox's NXX on the same basis as Embarq provides itself or its affiliates. Further, Embarq shall provide NuVox with access to abbreviated dialing codes, and the ability to obtain telephone numbers, including vanity numbers, while a subscriber is on the phone with NuVox. When NuVox uses numbers from a Embarq NXX, Embarq shall provide the same range of number choices to NuVox, including choice of exchange number, as Embarq provides its own subscribers. Reservation and aging of Embarq NXX's shall remain Embarq's responsibility.

72.5.2. In conjunction with an order for service, Embarq shall accept NuVox orders for vanity numbers and blocks of numbers for use with complex services including, but not limited to, DID, CENTREX, and Hunting arrangements, as requested by NuVox.

72.5.3. For simple services number reservations and aging of Embarq's numbers, Embarq shall provide real-time confirmation of the number reservation when the Electronic Interface has been implemented. For number reservations associated with complex services, Embarq shall provide confirmation of the number reservation within twenty-four (24) hours of NuVox's request. Consistent with the manner in which Embarq provides numbers to its own subscribers, no telephone number assignment is guaranteed until service has been installed.

72.6. Service Order Process Requirements

72.6.1. Service Migrations and New Subscriber Additions

72.6.1.1. For resale services, other than for a NuVox order to convert "as is" a NuVox subscriber, Embarq shall not disconnect any subscriber service or existing features at any time during the migration of that subscriber to NuVox service without prior NuVox agreement.

- 72.6.1.2. For services provided through UNEs, Embarq shall recognize NuVox as an agent, in accordance with OBF developed processes, for the subscriber in coordinating the disconnection of services provided by another NuVox or Embarq. In addition, Embarq and NuVox will work cooperatively to minimize service interruptions during the conversion.
- 72.6.1.3. Unless otherwise directed by NuVox and when technically capable, when NuVox orders resale Telecommunications Services all trunk or telephone numbers currently associated with existing services shall be retained without loss of feature capability and without loss of associated ancillary services including, but not limited to, Directory Assistance and 911/E911 capability.
- 72.6.1.4. For subscriber conversions requiring coordinated cut-over activities, on a per order basis, Embarq, to the extent resources are readily available, and NuVox will agree on a scheduled conversion time, which will be a designated time period within a designated date.
- 72.6.1.5. Any request made by NuVox to coordinate conversions after normal working hours, or on Saturdays or Sundays or Embarq holidays shall be performed at NuVox's expense.
- 72.6.1.6. A general Letter of Agency (LOA) initiated by NuVox or Embarq will be required to process a PLC or PIC change order. Providing the LOA, or a copy of the LOA, signed by the end user will not be required to process a PLC or PIC change ordered by NuVox or Embarq. NuVox and Embarq agree that PLC and PIC change orders will be supported with appropriate documentation and verification as required by FCC and Commission rules. In the event of a subscriber complaint of an unauthorized PLC record change where the Party that ordered such change is unable to produce appropriate documentation and verification as required by FCC and Commission rules (or, if there are no rules

applicable to PLC record changes, then such rules as are applicable to changes in long distance carriers of record), such Party shall be liable to pay and shall pay all nonrecurring and/or other charges associated with reestablishing the subscriber's local service with the original local carrier.

72.6.2. Intercept Treatment and Transfer Service Announcements. Embarq shall provide unbranded intercept treatment and transfer of service announcements to NuVox's subscribers. Embarq shall provide such treatment and transfer of service announcement in accordance with local tariffs and as provided to similarly situated Embarq subscribers for all service disconnects, suspensions, or transfers.

72.6.3. Due Date

72.6.3.1. Embarq shall supply NuVox with due date intervals to be used by NuVox personnel to determine service installation dates.

72.6.3.2. Embarq shall use reasonable efforts to complete orders by NuVox requested DDD within agreed upon intervals.

72.6.4. Subscriber Premises Inspections and Installations

72.6.4.1. NuVox shall perform or contract for all NuVox's needs assessments, including equipment and installation requirements required beyond the Demarcation/NID, located at the subscriber premises.

72.6.4.2. Embarq shall provide NuVox with the ability to schedule subscriber premises installations at the same morning and evening commitment level of service offered Embarq's own customers. The parties shall mutually agree on an interim process to provide this functionality during the implementation planning process.

72.6.5. Firm Order Confirmation (FOC)

72.6.5.1. Embarq shall provide to NuVox, a Firm Order Confirmation (FOC) for each NuVox order. The FOC shall contain the appropriate data elements as defined by the OBF standards.

72.6.5.2. For a revised FOC, Embarq shall provide standard detail as defined by the OBF standards.

72.6.5.3. Embarq shall provide to NuVox the date that service is scheduled to be installed.

72.6.6. Order Rejections

72.6.6.1. Embarq shall reject and return to NuVox any order that Embarq cannot provision, due to technical reasons, missing information, or jeopardy conditions resulting from NuVox ordering service at less than the standard order interval. When an order is rejected, Embarq shall, in its reject notification, specifically describe all of the reasons for which the order was rejected. Embarq shall reject any orders on account of the customer Desired Due Date conflicts with published Embarq order provisioning interval requirements.

72.6.7. Service Order Changes

72.6.7.1. In no event will Embarq change a NuVox initiated service order without a new service order directing said change. If an installation or other NuVox ordered work requires a change from the original NuVox service order in any manner, NuVox shall initiate a revised service order. If requested by NuVox, Embarq shall then provide NuVox an estimate of additional labor hours and/or materials.

- 72.6.7.2. When a service order is completed, the cost of the work performed will be reported promptly to NuVox.
  - 72.6.7.3. If a NuVox subscriber requests a service change at the time of installation or other work being performed by Embarq on behalf of NuVox, Embarq, while at the subscriber premises, shall direct the NuVox subscriber to contact NuVox, and NuVox will initiate a new service order.
- 72.7. Network Testing. Embarq shall perform all its standard pre-service testing prior to the completion of the service order.
- 72.8. Service Suspensions/Restorations. Upon NuVox's request through an Industry Standard, OBF, Suspend/Restore Order, or mutually agreed upon interim procedure, Embarq shall suspend or restore the functionality of any Network Element, feature, function, or resale service to which suspend/restore is applicable. Embarq shall provide restoration priority on a per network element basis in a manner that conforms with any applicable regulatory Rules and Regulations or government requirements.
- 72.9. Order Completion Notification. Upon completion of the requests submitted by NuVox, Embarq shall provide to NuVox a completion notification in an industry standard, OBF, or in a mutually agreed format. The completion notification shall include detail of the work performed, to the extent this is defined within OBF guidelines, and in an interim method until such standards are defined.
- 72.10. Specific Unbundling Requirements. NuVox may order and Embarq shall provision unbundled Network Elements. However, it is NuVox's responsibility to combine the individual network elements should it desire to do so.
- 72.11. Systems Interfaces and Information Exchanges
  - 72.11.1. General Requirements
    - 72.11.1.1. Embarq shall provide to NuVox Electronic Interface(s) for transferring and receiving information



and executing transactions for all business functions directly or indirectly related to Service Ordering and Provisioning of Network Elements, features, functions and Telecommunications Services, to the extent available.

72.11.1.2. Until the Electronic Interface is available, Embarq agrees that the NEAC or similar function will accept NuVox orders. Orders will be transmitted to the NEAC via an interface or method agreed upon by NuVox and Embarq.

72.11.1.3. If the method of connectivity is File Transfer Protocol (FTP), the response(s) will be loaded to the server every hour and it is the responsibility of NuVox to retrieve their response(s) from the server.

72.11.1.4. It is the responsibility of NuVox to provide Embarq with the LOA (Letter of Authorization) when another party is involved and is working on their behalf.

72.11.2. For any NuVox subscriber Embarq shall provide, subject to applicable rules, orders, and decisions, NuVox with access CPNI without requiring NuVox to produce a signed LOA, based on NuVox's blanket representation that subscriber has authorized NuVox to obtain such CPNI.

72.11.2.1. The preordering Electronic Interface includes the provisioning of CPNI from Embarq to NuVox. The Parties agree to execute a LOA agreement with the Embarq end user prior to requesting CPNI for that Embarq end user, and to request end user CPNI only when the end user has specifically given permission to receive CPNI. The Parties agree that they will conform to FCC and/or state regulations regarding the provisioning of CPNI between the parties, and regarding the use of that information by the requesting party.

- 72.11.2.2. The requesting Party will document end user permission obtained to receive CPNI, whether or not the end user has agreed to change local service providers. For end users changing service from one party to the other, specific end user LOAs may be requested by the Party receiving CPNI requests to investigate possible slamming incidents, and for other reasons agreed to by the Parties.
- 72.11.2.3. The receiving Party may also request documentation of an LOA if CPNI is requested and a subsequent service order for the change of local service is not received. On a schedule to be determined by Embarq, Embarq will perform a comparison of requests for CPNI to service orders received for the change of Local Service to NuVox. Embarq will produce a report of unmatched requests for CPNI, and may require an LOA from NuVox for each unmatched request. NuVox agrees to provide evidence of end user permission for receipt of CPNI for all end users in the request by Embarq within three (3) Business Days of receipt of a request from Embarq. Should Embarq determine that there has been a substantial percentage of unmatched LOA requests, Embarq reserves the right to immediately disconnect the preordering Electronic Interface.
- 72.11.2.4. If NuVox is not able to provide the LOA for ninety-five percent (95%) of the end users requested by Embarq, or if Embarq determines that an LOA is inadequate, NuVox will be considered in breach of the agreement. NuVox can cure the breach by submitting to Embarq evidence of an LOA for each inadequate or omitted LOA within three (3) Business Days of notification of the breach.
- 72.11.2.5. Should NuVox not be able to cure the breach in the

timeframe noted above, Embarq will discontinue processing new service orders until, in Embarq's determination, NuVox has corrected the problem that caused the breach.

72.11.2.6. Embarq will resume processing new service orders upon Embarq's timely review and acceptance of evidence provided by NuVox to correct the problem that caused the breach.

72.11.2.7. If NuVox and Embarq do not agree that NuVox requested CPNI for a specific end user, or that Embarq has erred in not accepting proof of an LOA, the Parties may immediately request dispute resolution in accordance with Part B. Embarq will not disconnect the preordering Electronic Interface during the Alternate Dispute Resolution process.

72.12. NuVox may use Embarq's ordering process (IRES) to:

72.12.1. to assign telephone number(s) (if the subscriber does not already have a telephone number or requests a change of telephone number) at Parity.

72.12.1.1. to schedule dispatch and installation appointments at Parity.

72.12.1.2. to access Embarq subscriber information systems which will allow NuVox to determine if a service call is needed to install the line or service at Parity.

72.12.1.3. to access Embarq information systems which will allow NuVox to provide service availability dates at Parity.

72.12.1.4. transmit status information on service orders, including acknowledgement, firm order confirmation, and completion at Parity.

72.13. Standards

72.13.1. General Requirements. NuVox and Embarq shall agree upon the appropriate ordering and provisioning codes to be used for UNEs. These codes shall apply to all aspects of the unbundling of that element

and shall be known as data elements as defined by the Telecommunications Industry Forum Electronic Data Interchange Service Order Subcommittee (TCIF-EDI-SOSC).

### **73. BILLING**

- 73.1. Embarq shall comply with various industry, OBF, and other standards referred to throughout this Agreement. Embarq will review any changes to industry standards, and implement the changes within the industry-defined window. Embarq will notify NuVox of any deviations to the standards.
- 73.2. Embarq shall bill NuVox for each service supplied by Embarq to NuVox pursuant to this Agreement at the rates set forth in this Agreement.
- 73.3. Embarq shall provide to NuVox a single point of contact for interconnection and collocation at the National Access Service Center (NASC), and Network Elements and resale at Embarq's NEAC, to handle any Connectivity Billing questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 73.4. Embarq shall provide a single point of contact for handling of any data exchange questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 73.5. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, NuVox shall pay Embarq within thirty (30) Days from the Bill Date. If the payment due date is a Saturday, Sunday or has been designated a bank holiday payment shall be made the next business day.
- 73.6. Billed amounts for which written, itemized disputes or claims have been filed shall be handled in accordance with the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in Part B of this Agreement.
- 73.7. Embarq will assess late payment charges to NuVox in accordance with Part B, Section 7.4 of this Agreement.
- 73.8. Embarq shall credit NuVox for incorrect Connectivity Billing charges including without limitation: overcharges, services ordered or requested but not delivered, interrupted services, services of poor quality and installation problems if caused by Embarq. Such reimbursements shall be set forth in the appropriate section of the Connectivity Bill pursuant to CABS, or SECAB standards.

- 73.9. Where Parties have established interconnection, Embarq and NuVox agree to conform to MECAB and MECOD guidelines. They will exchange Billing Account Reference and Bill Account Cross Reference information and will coordinate Initial Billing Company/Subsequent Billing Company billing cycles. Embarq will provide NuVox the appropriate records to bill exchange access charges to the IXC. Embarq will capture EMI records for inward terminating calls and send them to NuVox, as appropriate, in a daily or other agreed upon interval, via and agreed upon media (e.g.: Connect Direct or CD Rom). Upon Embarq's request, NuVox will provide Embarq the appropriate records to bill exchange access charges to the IXC. NuVox will capture EMI records for inward terminating calls and send them to Embarq, as appropriate, in a daily or other agreed upon interval, via and agreed upon media (e.g.: Connect Direct or CD Rom).
- 73.10. Embarq will bill NuVox for message provisioning and, if applicable, data tape charges related to exchange access records. Embarq will bill NuVox for the records at the rates on Table One. If NuVox requests additional copies of the monthly invoice, Embarq may also bill NuVox for the additional copies.
- 73.11. Revenue Protection. Embarq shall make available to NuVox, at Parity with what Embarq provides to itself, its Affiliates and other local telecommunications NuVoxs, all present and future fraud prevention or revenue protection features, including prevention, detection, or control functionality embedded within any of the Network Elements. These features include, but are not limited to screening codes, information digits assigned such as information digits '29' and '70' which indicate prison and COCOT pay phone originating line types respectively, call blocking of domestic, international, 800, 888, 900, NPA-976, 700, 500 and specific line numbers, and the capability to require end-user entry of an authorization code for dial tone. Embarq shall, when technically capable and consistent with the implementation schedule for Operations Support Systems (OSS), additionally provide partitioned access to fraud prevention, detection and control functionality within pertinent OSS.

#### **74. PROVISION OF USAGE DATA**

- 74.1. This Section sets forth the terms and conditions for Embarq's provision of Recorded Usage Data (as defined in this Part) to NuVox and for information

exchange regarding long distance and access billing. The parties agree to record call information for interconnection in accordance with this Section. To the extent technically feasible, each party shall record all call detail information associated with completed calls originated by or terminated to the other Party's local exchange subscriber, and long distance calls transited through one Party's network to the terminating provider. Embarq shall record for NuVox the messages that Embarq records for and bills to its end users and records for billing of interexchange carriers. These records shall be provided at a party's request and shall be formatted pursuant to Telcordia's EMI standards and the terms and conditions of this Agreement. These records shall be transmitted to the other party on non-holiday Business Days in EMI format via CDN, or provided on a cartridge. Embarq and NuVox agree that they shall retain, at each party's sole expense, copies of all EMI records transmitted to the other party for at least forty-five (45) calendar days after transmission to the other party.

#### 74.2. General Procedures

- 74.2.1. Embarq shall comply with various industry and OBF standards referred to throughout this Agreement.
- 74.2.2. Embarq shall comply with OBF standards when recording and transmitting Usage Data.
- 74.2.3. Embarq shall record all usage originating from NuVox end users using resold services ordered by NuVox, where Embarq records those same services for Embarq end users. Recorded Usage Data includes, but is not limited to, the following categories of information:
  - 74.2.3.1. Use of CLASS/LASS/Custom Features that Embarq records and bills for its end users on a per usage basis.
  - 74.2.3.2. Calls to Information Providers (IP) reached via Embarq facilities will be provided in accordance with Section 74.2.7
  - 74.2.3.3. Calls to Directory Assistance where Embarq provides such service to a NuVox end user.
  - 74.2.3.4. Calls completed via Embarq-provided Operator Services where Embarq provides such service to NuVox's local service end user and where Embarq records such usage for its

end users using Industry Standard Telcordia EMI billing records.

74.2.3.5. Access records related to long distance calling.

74.2.3.6. For Embarq-provided Centrex Service, station level detail.

74.2.4. Retention of Records. Embarq shall maintain a machine readable back-up copy of the message detail provided to NuVox for a minimum of forty-five (45) calendar days. During the forty-five (45) day period, Embarq shall provide any data back-up to NuVox upon the request of NuVox. If the forty-five (45) day period has expired, Embarq may provide the data back-up at NuVox's expense.

74.2.5. Embarq shall provide to NuVox Recorded Usage Data for NuVox end users. Embarq shall not submit other NuVox local usage data as part of the NuVox Recorded Usage Data.

74.2.6. Embarq shall not bill directly to NuVox subscribers any recurring or non-recurring charges for NuVox's services to the end user except where explicitly permitted to do so within a written agreement between Embarq and NuVox.

74.2.7. Embarq will record 976/N11 calls and transmit them to the IP for billing. Embarq will not bill these calls to either NuVox or NuVox's end user.

74.2.8. Embarq shall provide Recorded Usage Data to NuVox billing locations as agreed to by the Parties.

74.2.9. Embarq shall provide a single point of contact to respond to NuVox call usage, data error, and record transmission inquiries.

74.2.10. Embarq shall provide NuVox with a single point of contact and remote identifiers (IDs) for each sending location.

74.2.11. NuVox shall provide a single point of contact responsible for receiving usage transmitted by Embarq and receiving usage tapes from a courier service in the event of a facility outage.

74.2.12. Embarq shall bill and NuVox shall pay the charges for Recorded Usage Data. Billing and payment shall be in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions set forth herein.

#### 74.3. Charges

74.3.1. Access services, including revenues associated therewith, provided in connection with the resale of services hereunder shall be the responsibility of Embarq and Embarq shall directly bill and receive payment on its own behalf from an IXC for access related to interexchange calls generated by resold or rebranded customers.

74.3.2. Embarq will be responsible for returning EMI records to IXCs with the proper EMI Return Code along with the Operating Company Number (OCN) of the associated ANI, (i.e., Billing Number).

74.3.3. Embarq will deliver a monthly statement for Wholesale Services in the medium (e.g.: NDM, paper, or CD-ROM) requested by NuVox as follows:

74.3.3.1. Invoices will be provided in a standard Carrier Access Billing format or other such format as Embarq may determine;

74.3.3.2. Where local usage charges apply and message detail is created to support available services, the originating local usage at the call detail level in standard EMI industry format will be exchanged daily or at other mutually agreed upon intervals, and NuVox will pay Embarq for providing such call detail;

74.3.3.3. The Parties will work cooperatively to exchange information to facilitate the billing of in and out collect and inter/intra-region alternately billed messages;

74.3.3.4. Embarq agrees to provide information on the end-user's selection of special features where Embarq maintains such information (e.g.: billing method, special language) when NuVox places the order for service;

74.3.3.5. Monthly recurring charges for Telecommunications Services



sold pursuant to this Agreement shall be billed monthly in advance.

74.3.3.6. Embarq shall bill for message provisioning and, if applicable data tape charges, related to the provision of usage records. Embarq shall also bill NuVox for additional copies of the monthly invoice.

74.3.4. For billing purposes, and except as otherwise specifically agreed to in writing, the Telecommunications Services provided hereunder are furnished for a minimum term of one month. Each month is presumed to have thirty (30) days.

#### 74.4. Central Clearinghouse and Settlement

74.4.1. Embarq and NuVox shall agree upon Clearinghouse and Incollect/Outcollect procedures.

74.4.2. Embarq shall settle with NuVox for both intra-region and inter-region billing exchanges of calling card, bill-to-third party, and collect calls under separately negotiated settlement arrangements.

#### 74.5. Lost Data

74.5.1. Loss of Recorded Usage Data. NuVox Recorded Usage Data determined to have been lost, damaged or destroyed as a result of an error or omission by Embarq in its performance of the recording function shall be recovered by Embarq at no charge to NuVox. In the event the data cannot be recovered by Embarq, Embarq shall estimate the messages and associated revenue, with assistance from NuVox, based upon the method described below. This method shall be applied on a consistent basis, subject to modifications agreed to by Embarq and NuVox. This estimate shall be used to adjust amounts NuVox owes Embarq for services Embarq provides in conjunction with the provision of Recorded Usage Data.

74.5.2. Partial Loss. Embarq shall review its daily controls to determine if data has been lost. When there has been a partial loss, actual message and minute volumes shall be reported, if possible through recovery as discussed in Section 74.5 above. Where actual data are not available, a

full day shall be estimated for the recording entity, as outlined in the following paragraphs. The amount of the partial loss is then determined by subtracting the data actually recorded for such day from the estimated total for such day.

- 74.5.3. Complete Loss. When Embarq is unable to recover data as discussed in Section 74.5 above estimated message and minute volumes for each loss consisting of an entire AMA tape or entire data volume due to its loss prior to or during processing, lost after receipt, degaussed before processing, receipt of a blank or unreadable tape, or lost for other causes, shall be reported.
- 74.5.4. Estimated Volumes. From message and minute volume reports for the entity experiencing the loss, Embarq shall secure message/minute counts for the four (4) corresponding days of the weeks preceding that in which the loss occurred and compute an average of these volumes. Embarq shall apply the appropriate average revenue per message (“arpm”) agreed to by NuVox and Embarq to the estimated message volume for messages for which usage charges apply to the subscriber to arrive at the estimated lost revenue.
- 74.5.5. If the day of loss is not a holiday but one (1) (or more) of the preceding corresponding days is a holiday, use additional preceding weeks in order to procure volumes for two (2) non-holidays in the previous two (2) weeks that correspond to the day of the week that is the day of the loss.
- 74.5.6. If the loss occurs on a weekday that is a holiday (except Christmas and Mother’s day), Embarq shall use volumes from the two (2) preceding Sundays.
- 74.5.7. If the loss occurs on Mother’s day or Christmas day, Embarq shall use volumes from that day in the preceding year multiplied by a growth factor derived from an average of NuVox’s most recent three (3) month message volume growth. If a previous year’s message volumes are not available, a settlement shall be negotiated.

#### 74.6. Testing, Changes and Controls

74.6.1. The Recorded Usage Data, EMI format, content, and transmission process shall be tested as agreed upon by NuVox and Embarq.

74.6.2. Control procedures for all usage transferred between Embarq and NuVox shall be available for periodic review. This review may be included as part of an Audit of Embarq by NuVox or as part of the normal production interface management function. Breakdowns which impact the flow of usage between Embarq and NuVox must be identified and jointly resolved as they occur. The resolution may include changes to control procedures, so similar problems would be avoided in the future. Any changes to control procedures would need to be mutually agreed upon by NuVox and Embarq.

#### 74.6.3. Embarq Software Changes

74.6.3.1. When Embarq plans to introduce any software changes which impact the format or content structure of the usage data feed to NuVox, designated Embarq personnel shall notify NuVox no less than ninety (90) calendar days before such changes are implemented.

74.6.3.2. Embarq shall communicate the projected changes to NuVox's single point of contact so that potential impacts on NuVox processing can be determined.

74.6.3.3. NuVox personnel shall review the impact of the change on the entire control structure. NuVox shall negotiate any perceived problems with Embarq and shall arrange to have the data tested utilizing the modified software if required.

74.6.3.4. If it is necessary for Embarq to request changes in the schedule, content or format of usage data transmitted to NuVox, Embarq shall notify NuVox.

#### 74.6.4. NuVox Requested Changes:

74.6.4.1. NuVox may submit a purchase order to negotiate and pay for changes in the content and format of the usage data

transmitted by Embarq.

- 74.6.4.2. When the negotiated changes are to be implemented, NuVox and/or Embarq shall arrange for testing of the modified data.

#### 74.7. Information Exchange and Interfaces

- 74.7.1. Product/Service Specific. Embarq shall provide a Telcordia standard 42-50-01 miscellaneous charge record to support the Special Features Star Services if these features are part of Embarq's offering and are provided for Embarq's subscribers on a per usage basis.

#### 74.8. Rejected Recorded Usage Data

- 74.8.1.1. Upon agreement between NuVox and Embarq, messages that cannot be rated and/or billed by NuVox may be returned to Embarq via CDN or other medium as agreed by the Parties. Returned messages shall be sent directly to Embarq in their original EMI format utilizing standard EMI return codes.
- 74.8.1.2. Embarq may correct and resubmit to NuVox any messages returned to Embarq. Embarq will not be liable for any records determined by Embarq to be billable to a NuVox end user. NuVox will not return a message that has been corrected and resubmitted by Embarq. Embarq will only assume liability for errors and unguideables caused by Embarq.

### 75. GENERAL NETWORK REQUIREMENTS

- 75.1. Embarq shall provide repair, maintenance and testing for all resold Telecommunications Services and such UNEs that Embarq is able to test, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 75.2. During the term of this Agreement, Embarq shall provide necessary maintenance business process support as well as those technical and systems interfaces at Parity. Embarq shall provide NuVox with maintenance support at Parity.
- 75.3. Embarq shall provide on a regional basis, a point of contact for NuVox to report vital telephone maintenance issues and trouble reports twenty four (24) hours and seven (7) days a week.

- 75.4. Embarq shall provide NuVox maintenance dispatch personnel on the same schedule that it provides its own subscribers.
- 75.5. Embarq shall cooperate with NuVox to meet maintenance standards for all Telecommunications Services and unbundled network elements ordered under this Agreement. Such maintenance standards shall include, without limitation, standards for testing, network management, call gapping, and notification of upgrades as they become available.
- 75.6. All Embarq employees or contractors who perform repair service for NuVox end users shall follow Embarq standard procedures in all their communications with NuVox end users. These procedures and protocols shall ensure that:
- 75.6.1. Embarq employees or contractors shall perform repair service that is equal in quality to that provided to Embarq end users; and
- 75.6.2. Trouble calls from NuVox shall receive response time priority that is equal to that of Embarq end users and shall be handled on a "first come first served" basis regardless of whether the end user is a NuVox end user or a Embarq end user.
- 75.7. Embarq shall provide NuVox with scheduled maintenance for resold lines, including, without limitation, required and recommended maintenance intervals and procedures, for all Telecommunications Services and network elements provided to NuVox under this Agreement equal in quality to that currently provided by Embarq in the maintenance of its own network. NuVox shall perform its own testing for UNEs.
- 75.8. Embarq shall give maximum advanced notice to NuVox of all non-scheduled maintenance or other planned network activities to be performed by Embarq on any network element, including any hardware, equipment, software, or system, providing service functionality of which NuVox has advised Embarq may potentially impact NuVox end users.
- 75.9. Notice of Network Event. Each party has the duty to alert the other of any network events that can result or have resulted in service interruption, blocked calls, or negative changes in network performance.
- 75.10. On all misdirected calls from NuVox end users requesting repair, Embarq shall provide such NuVox end user with the correct NuVox repair telephone number as

such number is provided to Embarq by NuVox. Once the Electronic Interface is established between Embarq and NuVox, Embarq agrees that NuVox may report troubles directly to a single Embarq repair/maintenance center for both residential and small business end users, unless otherwise agreed to by NuVox.

75.11. Upon establishment of an Electronic Interface, Embarq shall notify NuVox via such electronic interface upon completion of trouble report. The report shall not be considered closed until such notification is made. NuVox will contact its end user to determine if repairs were completed and confirm the trouble no longer exists.

75.12. Embarq shall perform all testing for resold Telecommunications Services.

75.13. Embarq shall provide test results to NuVox, if appropriate, for trouble clearance. In all instances, Embarq shall provide NuVox with the disposition of the trouble.

75.14. If Embarq initiates trouble handling procedures, it will bear all costs associated with that activity. If NuVox requests the trouble dispatch, and either there is no trouble found, or the trouble is determined to be beyond the end user demarcation point, then NuVox will bear the cost.

## **76. MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS**

### **76.1. General**

76.1.1. To the extent that Embarq does not provide the services described in this Section 76 to itself, NuVox must contract directly with the service provider for such services.

#### **76.1.2. Basic 911 and E911 General Requirements**

76.1.2.1. Basic 911 and E911 provides a caller access to the appropriate emergency service bureau by dialing a 3-digit universal telephone number (911).

76.1.2.2. Basic 911 and E911 functions provided to NuVox for unbundled local switching and resale shall be at Parity with the support and services that Embarq provides to its subscribers for such similar functionality.

76.1.2.2.1. In a resale situation, where it may be

appropriate for Embarq to update the ALI database, Embarq shall update such database with NuVox data in an interval at Parity with that experienced by Embarq end users.

76.1.2.2.2. Embarq shall transmit to NuVox daily all changes, alterations, modifications, and updates to the emergency public agency telephone numbers linked to all NPA NXXs. This transmission shall be electronic and be a separate feed from the subscriber listing feed.

76.1.2.3. In government jurisdictions where Embarq has obligations under existing agreements as the primary provider of the 911 System to the county (Host Embarq), NuVox shall participate in the provision of the 911 System as follows:

76.1.2.3.1. Each party shall be responsible for those portions of the 911 System for which it has control, including any necessary maintenance to each party's portion of the 911 System.

76.1.2.3.2. Host Embarq shall be responsible for maintaining the E-911 database. Embarq shall be responsible for maintaining the E-911 routing database.

76.1.2.4. If a third party is the primary service provider to a government agency, NuVox shall negotiate separately with such third party with regard to the provision of 911 service to the agency. All relations between such third party and NuVox are totally separate from this Agreement and Embarq makes no representations on behalf of the third party.

76.1.3. The following are Basic 911 and E911 Database Requirements

76.1.3.1. The ALI database shall be managed by Embarq,

but is the property of Embarq and NuVox for those records provided by NuVox.

- 76.1.3.2. To the extent allowed by the governmental agency, and where available, copies of the SIG shall be provided within three business days from the time requested and provided on diskette, or in a format suitable for use with desktop computers.
- 76.1.3.3. NuVox shall be solely responsible for providing NuVox database records to Embarq for inclusion in Embarq's ALI database on a timely basis.
- 76.1.3.4. Embarq and NuVox shall arrange for the automated input and periodic updating of the E911 database information related to NuVox end users. Embarq shall work cooperatively with NuVox to ensure the accuracy of the data transfer by verifying it against the SIG. Embarq shall accept electronically transmitted files that conform to NENA Version #2 format.
- 76.1.3.5. NuVox shall assign an E911 database coordinator charged with the responsibility of forwarding NuVox end user ALI record information to Embarq or via a third-party entity, charged with the responsibility of ALI record transfer. NuVox assumes all responsibility for the accuracy of the data that NuVox provides to Embarq.
- 76.1.3.6. NuVox shall provide information on new subscribers to Embarq within one (1) business day of the order completion. Embarq shall update the database within two (2) business days of receiving the data from NuVox. If Embarq detects an error in the NuVox provided data, the data shall be



returned to NuVox within two (2) business days from when it was provided to Embarq. NuVox shall respond to requests from Embarq to make corrections to database record errors by uploading corrected records within two (2) business days. Manual entry shall be allowed only in the event that the system is not functioning properly.

- 76.1.3.7. Embarq agrees to treat all data on NuVox subscribers provided under this Agreement as confidential and to use data on NuVox subscribers only for the purpose of providing E911 services.

## 76.2. Directory Listings Service Requests

- 76.2.1. These requirements pertain to Embarq's Listings Service Request process that enables NuVox to (a) submit NuVox subscriber information for inclusion in Directory Listings databases; (b) submit NuVox subscriber information for inclusion in published directories; and (c) provide NuVox subscriber delivery address information to enable Embarq to fulfill directory distribution obligations.
- 76.2.2. When implemented by the Parties, Embarq shall accept orders on a real-time basis via electronic interface in accordance with OBF Directory Service Request standards within three (3) months of the effective date of this Agreement. In the interim, Embarq shall create a standard format and order process by which NuVox can place an order with a single point of contact within Embarq.
- 76.2.3. Embarq will provide to NuVox the following Directory Listing Migration Options, valid under all access methods, including but not limited to, Resale, UNEs and Facilities-Based:
  - 76.2.3.1. Migrate with no Changes. Retain all white page listings for the subscriber in both DA and DL. Transfer ownership and billing for white page listings to NuVox.
  - 76.2.3.2. Migrate with Additions. Retain all white page listings for the subscriber in DL. Incorporate the specified additional listings order. Transfer ownership and billing for the white

page listings to NuVox.

- 76.2.3.3. Migrate with Deletions. Retain all white page listings for the subscriber in DL. Delete the specified listings from the listing order. Transfer ownership and billing for the white page listings to NuVox.
- 76.2.3.4. To ensure accurate order processing, Embarq or its directory publisher shall provide to NuVox the following information, with updates promptly upon changes:
  - 76.2.3.5. A matrix of NXX to central office;
  - 76.2.3.6. Geographical maps if available of Embarq service area;
  - 76.2.3.7. A description of calling areas covered by each directory, including but not limited to maps of calling areas and matrices depicting calling privileges within and between calling areas;
  - 76.2.3.8. Listing format rules;
  - 76.2.3.9. Standard abbreviations acceptable for use in listings and addresses;
  - 76.2.3.10. Titles and designations; and
  - 76.2.3.11. A list of all available directories and their Business Office close dates
- 76.2.4. Based on changes submitted by NuVox, Embarq shall update and maintain directory listings data for NuVox subscribers who:
  - 76.2.4.1. Disconnect Service;
  - 76.2.4.2. Change CLEC;
  - 76.2.4.3. Install Service;
  - 76.2.4.4. Change any service which affects DA information;
  - 76.2.4.5. Specify Non-Solicitation; and
  - 76.2.4.6. Are Non-Published, Non-Listed, or Listed.

- 76.2.5. Embarq shall not charge for storage of NuVox subscriber information in the DL systems.
- 76.2.6. NuVox shall not charge for storage of Embarq subscriber information in the DL systems.
- 76.3. Directory Listings General Requirements. NuVox acknowledges that many directory functions including but not limited to yellow page listings, enhanced white page listings, information pages, directory proofing, and directory distribution are not performed by Embarq but rather are performed by and are under the control of the directory publisher. NuVox acknowledges that for a NuVox subscriber's name to appear in a directory, NuVox must submit a Directory Service Request (DSR). Embarq shall use reasonable efforts to assist NuVox in obtaining an agreement with the directory publisher that treats NuVox at Parity with the publisher's treatment of Embarq.
  - 76.3.1. This Section 76.3 pertains to listings requirements published in the traditional white pages.
  - 76.3.2. Embarq shall include in its master subscriber system database all white pages listing information for NuVox subscribers in Embarq territories where NuVox is providing local telephone exchange services and has submitted a DSR.
  - 76.3.3. Embarq agrees to include one basic White pages listing for each NuVox customer located within the geographic scope of its White Page directories, at no additional charge to NuVox. A basic White Pages listing is defined as a customer name, address and either the NuVox assigned number for a customer or the number for which number portability is provided, but not both numbers. Basic White Pages listings of NuVox customers will be interfiled with listings of Embarq and other LEC customers.
  - 76.3.4. NuVox agrees to provide NuVox customer listing information, including without limitation directory distribution information, to Embarq, at no charge. Embarq will provide NuVox with the appropriate format for provision of NuVox customer listing information to Embarq. The parties agree to adopt a mutually acceptable electronic format for the provision of such information as soon as practicable. In the event OBF

	OC008	2-Wire Loop Cooperative Testing		\$38.16
	OC009	4-Wire Loop Cooperative Testing		\$46.88
	OC010	Trouble Isolation Charge		\$74.10
	OC016	Change Telephone Number, per change		\$9.40
	OC017	LNP Coordinated Conversion - Lines 1 -10		\$66.42
	OC018	LNP Coordinated Conversion - Each additional line		\$4.59
	OC023	LNP Conversion - 10 Digit Trigger		\$0.00
		<b>UNE to Special Access or Special Access to UNE Conversions or Migrations (includes EEL)</b>		
	OC021	DS1 Loop, per circuit		\$99.88
	OC021	DS1 Transport, per circuit		\$99.88
	OC022	DS3 Loop, per circuit		ICB
	OC022	DS3 Transport, per circuit		ICB
		<b>UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS (UNE)</b>		
		<b>PRE-ORDER LOOP QUALIFICATION</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
	PQ001	Loop Make-Up Information		\$12.00
		<b>LOOPS (RATES INCLUDE NID CHARGE)</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
		<b>2-Wire Analog</b>		
AA013		Band 1	\$26.31	
AA014		Band 2	\$45.96	
AA015		Band 3	\$71.71	
	AA002	First Line		\$95.82
	AA003	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$40.46
	AA004	Re-install (Cut Thru and Dedicated/Vacant)		\$37.87
	AA005	Disconnect		\$33.45
		<b>4-Wire Analog</b>		

AA017		Band 1	\$50.41	
AA018		Band 2	\$89.28	
AA019		Band 3	\$140.38	
	AA008	First Line		\$118.64
	AA009	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$63.29
	AA010	Re-install (Cut Thru and Dedicated/Vacant)		\$51.33
	AA011	Disconnect		\$33.45
		<b>2-Wire xDSL - Capable Loop</b>		
AA013		Band 1	\$26.31	
AA014		Band 2	\$45.96	
AA015		Band 3	\$71.71	
	DX009	First Line		\$97.65
	DX002	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$42.30
	DX003	Re-install (Cut Thru and Dedicated/Vacant)		\$37.87
	DD004	Disconnect		\$33.45
		<b>4-Wire xDSL - Capable Loop</b>		
DX010		Band 1	\$50.41	
DX011		Band 2	\$89.28	
DX012		Band 3	\$140.38	
	DX014	First Line		\$122.30
	DX015	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$66.95
	DX016	Re-install (Cut Thru and Dedicated/Vacant)		\$51.33
	DX017	Disconnect		\$33.45
		<b>2-Wire Digital Loop</b>		
AA013		Band 1	\$26.31	
AA014		Band 2	\$45.96	
AA015		Band 3	\$71.71	
	DD002	First Line		\$97.65
	DD003	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$42.30
	DD004	Disconnect		\$33.45
		<b>2-Wire ISDN-BRI Digital Loop</b>		

DD013		Band 1	\$40.42	
DD014		Band 2	\$66.24	
DD015		Band 3	\$100.98	
	DD002	First Line		\$97.65
	DD003	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$42.30
	DD004	Disconnect		\$33.45
		<b>4-Wire Digital Loop (no electronics)</b>		
DD017		Band 1	\$50.41	
DD018		Band 2	\$89.28	
DD019		Band 3	\$140.38	
	DD006	First Line		\$122.30
	DD007	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$66.95
	DD008	Disconnect		\$33.45
		<b>Digital 56k/64k Loop</b>		
DD021		Band 1	\$46.75	
DD022		Band 2	\$68.44	
DD023		Band 3	\$96.56	
	DD030	First Line		\$236.62
	DD031	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$181.26
	DD004	Disconnect		\$33.45
		<b>DS1 Service and ISDN PRI Loop</b>		
DD025		Band 1	\$173.46	
DD026		Band 2	\$197.17	
DD027		Band 3	\$275.07	
	DD010	First Line		\$318.76
	DD011	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$263.40
	DD008	Disconnect		\$33.45
		<b>DS3 Service</b>		
HC002	HC001	Add DS3 to existing fiber system	ICB	\$130.30
	HC003	Disconnect		\$17.13

		LOOP CONDITIONING	MRC	NRC
		<b>Load Coil Removal</b> for all Digital UNE and xDSL-Capable loops that are less than 18,000 feet in length - per line conditioned (No Engineering or Trip charges - price reflects 25 pair economies)		
	LC001			\$2.00
	LC002	Conditioning Engineering Charge - per loop		\$80.15
	LC003	Conditioning Trip Charge - per loop		\$19.49
		The following charges apply to all loops of any length that require Bridged Tap or Repeater removal.		
		<b>Load Coil Removal: Loops 18kft or longer</b>		
	LC004	Unload cable pair, per Underground location		\$190.11
	LC005	Unload Addtl cable pair, UG same time, same location and cable		\$1.16
	LC006	Unload cable pair, per Aerial Location		\$78.63
	LC007	Unload Addtl cable pair, AE or BU, same time, location and cable		\$1.16
		Unload cable pair, per Buried Location		\$111.63
		<b>Bridged Tap or Repeater Removal - Any Loop Length</b>		
	LC012	Remove Bridged Tap or Repeater, per Underground Location		\$190.42
	LC013	Remove each Addtl Bridged Tap or Repeater, UG same time, location and cable		\$1.47
	LC014	Remove Bridged Tap or Repeater, per Aerial Location		\$78.94
	LC015	Remove each Addtl Bridged Tap or Repeater, AE or BU same time, location and cable		\$1.47
		Remove Bridged Tap or Repeater, per Buried Location		\$111.95
		<b>SUB LOOPS (RATES INCLUDE NID CHARGE)</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
		Sub-Loops Interconnection (Stub Cable)		ICB
		<b>2 Wire Voice Grade and Digital Data Distribution</b>		
	SB002	Band 1	\$13.66	
	SB003	Band 2	\$22.31	
	SB004	Band 3	\$33.14	
	SB010	First Line		\$84.84
	SB011	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$29.48
	SB012	Disconnect		\$46.30

		<b>4 Wire Voice Grade and Digital Data Distribution</b>		
SB006		Band 1	\$26.48	
SB007		Band 2	\$43.18	
SB008		Band 3	\$64.11	
	SB013	First Line		\$107.40
	SB014	Second Line and Each Additional Line (same time)		\$52.04
	SB015	Disconnect		\$46.30
		<b>DEDICATED INTEROFFICE TRANSPORT</b>		<b>MRC</b> <b>NRC</b>
			Refer to Dedicated Transport Tab	
DT2	DT004	DS1		\$83.85
	DT005	DS1 Disconnect		\$17.13
			Refer to Dedicated Transport Tab	
DT3	DT007	DS3		\$83.85
	DT008	DS3 Disconnect		\$17.13
		<b>MULTIPLEXING</b>		<b>MRC</b> <b>NRC</b>
DT023	DT019	Multiplexing - DS1-DS0 (per DS1) - (Shelf only, rate does not include cards)	\$175.85	\$83.85
	DT020	DS1-DS0 Disconnect		\$17.13
DT024	DT021	Multiplexing - DS3-DS1 (per DS3)	\$214.41	\$83.85
	DT022	DS3-DS1 Disconnect		\$17.13
		<b>UNBUNDLED DARK FIBER</b>		<b>MRC</b> <b>NRC</b>
	DF007	Dark Fiber Application & Quote Preparation Charge		\$248.42
		Note: These elements are calculated and billed manually using one price per USOC and COS. Detail is provided by the DFA form returned to the customer.		
		<b>Transport</b>		
DF009		Interoffice, per foot per fiber - Statewide Average	\$0.0040	



		<b>Additional Charges Applicable to Transport</b>		
DF011		Fiber Patch Cord, per fiber	\$0.74	
DF012		Fiber Patch Panel, per fiber	\$0.72	
	DF003	Central Office Interconnection, 1-4 Patch Cords per CO - Install or Disconnect		\$176.99
	OC011	Dark Fiber End-to-End Testing, Initial Strand		\$61.55
	OC012	Dark Fiber End-to-End Testing, Subsequent Strand		\$17.20
		<b>EEL COMBINATIONS</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
		Enhanced Extended Link (EEL) is a combination of Loop, Transport and Multiplexing (when applicable). Refer to the specific UNE section (transport, loop, multiplexing) in this document to obtain pricing for each specific element.		
		See Rate Element / Service Order / Installation/Repair Center section of this price sheet for EEL Conversion Charges.		
		<b>RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
		End Office - per MOU	\$0.002721	N/A
		Tandem Switching - per MOU	\$0.003079	N/A
		Shared Transport - per MOU	\$0.001207	N/A
		<b>TRANSIT SERVICE</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
		Transit Service Charge - per MOU	\$0.004286	N/A
		<b>DATABASE, available via contract or tariff</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
DB001		Local Number Portability query (LNP) - Contracted	\$0.00030	
DB002		Toll Free Code query (TFC) - Simple - Contracted	\$0.00200	
DB003		Toll Free Code query (TFC) - Complex Additive - Contracted	\$0.00020	
DB004		Line Information Database query (LIDB) - <i>Per Interstate Tariff</i>	Per Tariff	
DB005		Line Information Database query transport (LIDB) - <i>Per Interstate Tariff</i>	Per Tariff	
DB006		Calling Name Database Access Service query (CNAM) - <i>Contracted, MTM</i>	\$0.01450	
DB009		Calling Name Database Access Service query (CNAM) - <i>Contracted, 3 year term</i>	\$0.00800	
DB010		Calling Name Database Access Service query (CNAM) - <i>Contracted, 3 + year term</i>	\$0.00550	
		<b>OPERATOR SERVICES / DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE SERVICES</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>

				Refer to Applicable Retail Tariff
	DA002	Operator Services		
				Refer to Applicable Retail Tariff
	DA002	Directory Assistance Services		
		<b>DIRECTORY SERVICES</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
				Refer to Applicable Retail Tariff
	DA002	Directory - Premium & Privacy Listings		
		<b>911 AND E911 TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
			Refer to Dedicated Transport Tab	
DT2	DT004	911 and E911 Transport - DS1		<b>\$83.85</b>
DT023	DT019	Multiplexing - DS1-DS0 (per DS1) - (Shelf only, rate does not include cards)	<b>\$175.85</b>	<b>\$83.85</b>
DB011	DB007	DS0 911 Per Port (minimum of 2 DS0's required)	<b>\$23.89</b>	<b>ICB</b>
		<b>STREET INDEX GUIDE</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
	DB008	SIG Database Extract Report, per CDROM (price reflects shipping regular U.S. Mail)		<b>\$18.00</b>
		<b>ROUTINE MODIFICATION OF FACILITIES</b>	<b>MRC</b>	<b>NRC</b>
		<b>Rearrangement of Cable</b>		
				Included in Loop
		Rearrangement of Up to 3 Pairs per UNE Loop Ordered	<b>N/A</b>	<b>NRC</b>
		Rearrangements Requiring More Than 3 Pairs per UNE Loop Ordered	<b>N/A</b>	<b>ICB</b>
		<b>Dedicated Repeater/Doubler Installation Cost (incl. 4 slot housing and 1 card), per</b>		

		location		
		1. Repeater Equipment Case w/ Repeater Card (for T-1 applications):		
		Where Special Construction Does Not Apply (Card Installation Only)	Included in Loop MRC	Included in Loop NRC
		Where Special Construction Applies, Non Recurring Charge		\$2,099.79
		2. Doubler Equipment Case w/ Doubler Card (for HDSL applications)		
		Where Special Construction Does Not Apply (Card Installation Only)	Included in Loop MRC	Included in Loop NRC
		Where Special Construction Applies, Non Recurring Charge		\$2,318.26
		Smart Jack	Included in Loop MRC	Included in Loop NRC
		Line Card Installation	Included in Loop MRC	Included in Loop NRC
		Multiplexing	Included in Loop MRC	Included in Loop NRC
		Note: Multiplexer pricing available through Enhanced Extended Loop (EELs) facility leases		

LOOP BANDING		TN
Exchange Name	CLLI	Band
BLOUNTVL	BUVLTNXARS0	1
BRISTOL	BRSTTNXADS0	1
ELIZABHTN	ELTNTNXADS0	1
JOHNSON CY	JHCYTNXCDS0	1
JOHNSON CY	JHCYTNXADS0	1
KINGSPORT	KGPTTNXADS0	1
KINGSPORT	KGPTTNXCRS0	1
MIDWAY SUL	MDWYTNXARS0	1
BAILEYTON	BLTNTNXARS0	2
BLUFF CITY	BLCYTNXARS0	2
CHURCHHILL	CHHLTNXARS0	2
ERWIN	ERWNTNXARS0	2
GREENEVL	GRVLTNXADS0	2
JONESBORO	JNBOTNXARS0	2
STONEY CRK	STCKTNXARS0	2
SULIVNGDNS	SLGRTNXARS0	2
BRISTOL	BRSTTNXBRS0	3
BUTLER	BTLRTNXARS0	3
FALLBRANCH	FLBRTNXARS0	3
HAMPTON	HMPNTNXARS0	3
LIMESTONE	LMSTTNXADS0	3
MOSHEIM	MOSHTNXARS0	3
MOUNTAINCY	MTCYTNXARS0	3
ROAN MT	RNMTTNXARS0	3

## DEDICATED TRANSPORT RATE SUMMARY

TENNESEE

Route (Exchange to Exchange)		Route (CLLI to CLLI)		Non-Impaired Routes	Dedicated DS1 Rate	Dedicated DS3 Rate
Originating	Terminating	Originating	Terminating			
** Routes meet the FCC TRRO non-impaired threshold criteria for DS1 and DS3.						
*** Routes meet the FCC TRRO non-impaired threshold criteria for DS3 only.						
Baileyton	Greeneville	BLTNTNXARS0	GRVLTNXADS0		\$172.37	\$4,594.5
Baileyton	Limestone	BLTNTNXARS0	LMSTTNXADS0		\$332.39	\$8,843.4
Baileyton	Mosheim	BLTNTNXARS0	MOSHTNXARS0		\$265.43	\$6,082.2
Blountville	Bluff City	BUVLTNXARS0	BLCYTNXARS0		\$151.15	\$2,120.9
Blountville	Bristol, TN and Bristol, VA	BUVLTNXARS0	BRSTTNXADS0		\$60.03	\$562.4
Blountville	Church Hill, Mt. Carmel	BUVLTNXARS0	CHHLTNXARS0		\$359.32	\$6,831.5
Blountville	Fall Branch	BUVLTNXARS0	FLBRTNXARS0		\$397.98	\$7,914.0
Blountville	Johnson City Main	BUVLTNXARS0	JHCYTNXADS0		\$75.79	IC
Blountville	Kingsport	BUVLTNXARS0	KGPTTNXADS0		\$283.14	\$5,816.3
Blountville	Midway	BUVLTNXARS0	MDWYTNXARS0		\$346.71	\$6,642.2
Blountville	Sullivan Gardens	BUVLTNXARS0	SLGRTNXARS0		\$397.98	\$7,914.0
Blountville	Wytheville, VA	BUVLTNXARS0	WYVLVAXADS0		\$98.87	IC
Bluff City	Johnson City Main	BLCYTNXARS0	JHCYTNXADS0		\$93.04	\$1,651.3
Bluff City-Piney Flats	Bristol, TN and Bristol, VA	BLCYTNXARS0	BRSTTNXADS0		\$91.12	\$1,558.5
Bluff City-Piney Flats	Church Hill	BLCYTNXARS0	CHHLTNXARS0		\$167.31	\$2,573.7
Bluff City-Piney Flats	Fall Branch	BLCYTNXARS0	FLBRTNXARS0		\$205.96	\$3,656.1
Bluff City-Piney Flats	Kingsport	BLCYTNXARS0	KGPTTNXADS0		\$91.12	\$1,558.5
Bluff City-Piney Flats	Midway	BLCYTNXARS0	MDWYTNXARS0		\$154.69	\$2,384.3
Bluff City-Piney Flats	Sullivan Gardens	BLCYTNXARS0	SLGRTNXARS0		\$205.96	\$3,656.1
Bristol, TN	Bristol South	BRSTTNXADS0	BRSTTNXBDS0		\$61.34	IC
Bristol, TN	Church Hill	BRSTTNXADS0	CHHLTNXARS0		\$299.29	\$6,269.1
Bristol, TN	Fall Branch	BRSTTNXADS0	FLBRTNXARS0		\$337.95	\$7,351.5
Bristol, TN	Johnson City Main	BRSTTNXADS0	JHCYTNXADS0		\$75.79	IC
Bristol, TN	Kingsport	BRSTTNXADS0	KGPTTNXADS0	***	\$256.57	\$6,042.6

Bristol, TN	Midway	BRSTTNXADS0	MDWYTNXARS0	\$154.69	\$2,384.3
Bristol, TN	Sullivan Gardens	BRSTTNXADS0	SLGRTNXARS0	\$337.95	\$7,351.5
Butler	Elizabethton	BTLR TNXARS0	ELTNTNXADS0	\$251.67	\$5,696.3
Butler	Hampton	BTLR TNXARS0	HMPNTNXARS0	\$251.67	\$5,696.3
Butler	Mountain City	BTLR TNXARS0	MTCYTNXARS0	\$387.99	\$8,395.4
Butler	Roan Mountain	BTLR TNXARS0	RNMTTNXARS0	\$522.45	\$13,046.6
Butler	Stoney Creek	BTLR TNXARS0	STCKTNXARS0	\$413.23	\$9,988.2
Church Hill-Mt.Carmel	Fall Branch	CHHL TNXARS0	FLBRTNXARS0	\$191.03	\$3,112.8
Church Hill-Mt.Carmel	Kingsport	CHHL TNXARS0	KGPTTNXADS0	\$76.19	\$1,015.2
Church Hill-Mt.Carmel	Midway	CHHL TNXARS0	MDWYTNXARS0	\$139.76	\$1,841.0
Church Hill-Mt.Carmel	Sullivan Gardens	CHHL TNXARS0	SLGR TNXARS0	\$191.03	\$3,112.8
Elizabethton	Hampton	ELTNTNXADS0	HMPNTNXARS0	\$57.17	\$482.1
Elizabethton	Roan Mountain	ELTNTNXADS0	RNMTTNXARS0	\$327.95	\$7,832.4
Elizabethton	Stoney Creek	ELTNTNXADS0	STCKTNXARS0	\$161.56	\$4,291.8
Erwin	Bristol TN	ERWNTNXARS0	BRSTTNXADS0	\$91.12	IC
Erwin	Johnson City Main	ERWNTNXARS0	JHCYTNXADS0	\$166.91	IC
Erwin	Kingsport	ERWNTNXARS0	KGPTTNXADS0	\$91.12	IC
Fall Branch	Johnson City	FLBRTNXARS0	JHCYTNXADS0	\$178.41	\$2,923.4
Fall Branch	Jonesboro	FLBRTNXARS0	JNBOTNXARS0	\$321.97	\$5,825.0
Fall Branch	Kingsport	FLBRTNXARS0	KGPTTNXADS0	\$114.84	\$2,097.6
Fall Branch	Limestone	FLBRTNXARS0	LMSTTNXADS0	\$321.97	\$5,825.0
Fall Branch	Midway	FLBRTNXARS0	MDWYTNXARS0	\$178.41	\$2,923.4
Fall Branch	Sullivan Gardens	FLBRTNXARS0	SLGR TNXARS0	\$114.84	\$2,097.6
Greeneville	Limestone	GRVLTNXADS0	LMSTTNXADS0	\$160.03	\$4,248.9
Greeneville	Mosheim	GRVLTNXADS0	MOSHTNXARS0	\$93.07	\$1,487.6
Hampton	Roan Mountain	HMPNTNXARS0	RNMTTNXARS0	\$327.95	\$7,832.4
Hampton	Stoney Creek	HMPNTNXARS0	STCKTNXARS0	\$218.73	\$4,774.0
Johnson City Main	Greeneville	JHCYTNXADS0	GRVLTNXADS0	\$155.47	IC
Johnson City Main	Jonesboro	JHCYTNXADS0	JNBOTNXARS0	\$143.56	\$2,901.5
Johnson City Main	Kingsport	JHCYTNXADS0	KGPTTNXADS0	\$63.57	IC
Johnson City Main	Limestone	JHCYTNXADS0	LMSTTNXADS0	\$143.56	\$2,901.5
Johnson City Main	Midway	JHCYTNXADS0	MDWYTNXARS0	\$75.79	\$1,129.4
Johnson City North	Bristol	JHCYTNXC42T	BRSTTNXADS0	*** \$256.57	\$6,042.0
Johnson City North	Elizabethton	JHCYTNXC42T	ELTNTNXADS0	\$93.04	\$1,651.3
Johnson City North	Galax, VA	JHCYTNXC42T	GALXVAXADS0	\$208.09	IC
Johnson City North	Greeneville	JHCYTNXC42T	GRVLTNXADS0	\$223.10	\$5,253.9

Johnson City North	Hillsville, VA	JHCYTNXC42T	HLVLVAXADS0	***	\$182.76	IC
Johnson City North	Johnson City Main	JHCYTNXC42T	JHCYTNXADS0		\$75.79	\$1,129.4
Johnson City North	Jonesboro	JHCYTNXC42T	JNBOTNXARS0		\$219.35	\$4,030.9
Johnson City North	Kingsport	JHCYTNXC42T	KGPTTNXADS0		\$256.57	\$6,042.0
Johnson City North	Limestone	JHCYTNXC42T	LMSTTNXADS0		\$219.35	\$4,030.9
Johnson City North	Marion, VA	JHCYTNXC42T	MARNVAXADS0		\$98.87	IC
Johnson City North	Midway	JHCYTNXC42T	MDWYTNXARS0		\$75.79	\$1,129.4
Jonesboro	Limestone	JNBOTNXARS0	LMSTTNXADS0		\$143.56	\$2,901.5
Jonesboro	Midway	JNBOTNXARS0	MDWYTNXARS0		\$219.35	\$4,030.9
Kingsport	Midway	KGPTTNXADS0	MDWYTNXARS0		\$63.57	\$825.8
Kingsport	Sullivan Gardens	KGPTTNXADS0	SLGRTNXARS0		\$114.84	\$2,097.6
Kingsport	Wytheville, VA	KGPTTNXADS0	WYVLVAXADS0		\$133.08	\$1,954.2
Limestone	Midway	LMSTTNXADS0	MDWYTNXARS0		\$219.35	\$4,030.9
Limestone	Mosheim	LMSTTNXADS0	MOSHTNXARS0		\$253.09	\$5,736.6
Midway	Sullivan Gardens	MDWYTNXARS0	SLGRTNXARS0		\$178.41	\$2,923.4
Roan Mountain	Stoney Creek	RNMSTTNXARS0	STCKTNXARS0		\$489.51	\$12,124.2

**Table Two**

<b>Rate Element Description</b>		
<b>Physical and Virtual Collocation Elements</b>	<b>Non-Recurring Rate</b>	<b>Monthly Recurring Rate</b>
<b>Application Fees</b>		
New Collocation - Application Fee	\$ 2,742.43	N/A
New Collocation - Administrative, Transmission Engineering & Project Management Fee	\$ 5,781.55	N/A
Minor Augment Fee	\$ 802.58	N/A
Minor Augment - Administrative & Project Management Fee	\$ 774.34	N/A
Minor Augment - Transmission Engineering Fee	\$ 524.26	N/A
Major Augment Fee	\$ 1,621.71	N/A
Major Augment - Administrative & Project Management Fee	\$ 2,024.90	N/A
Major Augment - Transmission Engineering Fee	\$ 1,540.00	N/A
Space Report (per wire center)	\$ 922.01	N/A
<b>Security Cage Construction</b>		
Security Cage - Engineering	\$ 504.77	N/A
Security Cage - Construction (per Linear Foot)	\$ 48.74	N/A
<b>Floor Space</b>		
Floor Space (per Square Foot)	N/A	\$ 8.54
<b>DC Power</b>		
Power Costs (per Load Ampere Ordered)	N/A	\$ 15.01
Power Costs (per Connection to Power Plant up to 30 Amps)	\$ 1,334.92	\$ 13.69
Power Costs (per Connection to Power Plant 31-60 Amps)	\$ 2,346.14	\$ 22.42
Power Costs (per Connection to Power Plant 61-100 Amps)	\$ 8,753.27	\$ 72.90
Additional Cost per Foot Over 110 Linear Feet	\$ 169.31	\$ 1.33
Power Costs (per Connection to Power Plant 101-200 Amps)	\$ 19,303.04	\$ 157.75
Additional Cost per Foot Over 110 Linear Feet	\$ 319.95	\$ 2.51



<b>AC Power</b>		
AC Outlet Installation (per 20 amp outlet)	\$ 1,099.38	N/A
Overhead Lights (per set of 2)	\$ 1,614.05	N/A
<b>Cross Connect Facilities</b>		
DS0 Switchboard Cable (per 100 Pair)	N/A	\$ 26.87
DS0 Co-Carrier Direct Cabling (per 100 Pair Switchboard Cable)	\$ 512.09	\$ 7.64
DS1 Cross Connect (per DS1 in 28-pack Increments)	N/A	\$ 1.56
DS1 Co-Carrier Direct Cabling (per DS1 28-pack Cable)	\$ 534.48	\$ 9.15
DS3 Cross Connect (per DS3 in 12-pack Increments)	N/A	\$ 19.65
DS3 Co-Carrier Direct Cabling (per DS3 12-pack Cable)	\$ 1865.10	\$ 21.41
Optical Cross-Connect (per 4-Fiber Cable)	N/A	\$ 15.52
Optical Co-Carrier Direct Cabling (per 4-Fiber Cable)	\$ 212.27	\$ 9.58
Internal Cable Space (per 48-Fiber Cable)	N/A	\$ 35.43
Internal Cable Space (per 100-Pair Copper Stub Cable)	N/A	\$ 23.39
Internal Cable (per 48-Fiber Cable)	\$ 1,132.86	\$ 35.68
Internal Cable (per 100-Pair Copper Stub Cable)	\$ 185.54	\$ 50.63

Table 2: Rates for the State of Tennessee *(continued)*

<b>Physical and Virtual Collocation Elements</b> <i>(continued)</i>	<b>Non-Recurring Rate</b>	<b>Monthly Recurring Rate</b>
<b>Security Card</b>		
Security Card (per Card)	\$ 15.00	N/A
<b>Additional Labor Charges (Physical or Virtual)</b>		
Additional Labor 1/4 hour CO Technician - Regular	\$ 11.22	N/A
Additional Labor 1/4 hour CO Technician - Overtime	\$ 16.83	N/A
Additional Labor 1/4 hour CO Technician - Premium	\$ 22.44	N/A
Additional Labor 1/4 hour CO Engineer	\$ 14.39	N/A
Additional Labor 1/4 hour OSP Technician - Regular	\$ 13.83	N/A
Additional Labor 1/4 hour OSP Technician - Overtime	\$ 20.75	N/A
Additional Labor 1/4 hour OSP Technician - Premium	\$ 27.66	N/A
Additional Labor 1/4 hour OSP Engineer	\$ 12.93	N/A
<b>Adjacent Onsite Collocation</b>	<b>Non-Recurring Rate</b>	<b>Monthly Recurring Rate</b>
All elements	ICB	ICB
<b>Remote Terminal Collocation</b>	<b>Non-Recurring Rate</b>	<b>Monthly Recurring Rate</b>
All elements	ICB	ICB

## **Exhibit A – TRRO Wire Center Thresholds as of June 1, 2006**

### **LOOPS**

**Wire Centers exceeding the UNE Loop DS1 Threshold (60,000 Business Access Lines and 4 fiber based collocators)**

<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Wire Center</u></b>	<b><u>CLLI</u></b>	<b><u>Effective</u></b>
NV	West 6	LSVGNVXK	April 22, 2005
NV	South 5	LSVGNVXG	June 1, 2006

**Wire Centers exceeding the UNE Loop DS3 Threshold (38,000 Business Access Lines and 4 fiber-based collocators)**

<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Wire Center</u></b>	<b><u>CLLI</u></b>	<b><u>Effective</u></b>
NV	Main	LSVGNVXB	April 22, 2005
NV	West West	LSVGNVXW	April 22, 2005
NV	South 6	LSVGNGXL	June 1, 2006

### **TRANSPORT**

**Tier 1 Wire Centers for UNE Dedicated Transport**

<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Wire Center</u></b>	<b><u>CLLI</u></b>	<b><u>Effective</u></b>
FL	Altamonte Springs	ALSPFLXA	April 22, 2005
FL	Fort Myers	FTMYFLXA	April 22, 2005
FL	Maitland	MTLDFLXA	April 22, 2005
FL	Tallahassee	TLHSFLXA	April 22, 2005
FL	Winter Park	WNPKFLXA	April 22, 2005
NV	East 1	LSVGNVXR	June 1, 2006
NV	Main	LSVGNVXB	April 22, 2005
NV	South 5	LSVGNVXG	April 22, 2005
NV	West 6	LSVGNVXK	April 22, 2005
NV	South 6	LSVGNVXL	April 22, 2005
NV	South South	LSVGNVXV	April 22, 2005
NV	West West	LSVGNVXW	April 22, 2005
TN	Bristol	BRSTTNXA	April 22, 2005
TN	Johnson City	JHCYTNXC	April 22, 2005
TN	Kingsport	KGPTTNXA	April 22, 2005

**Tier 2 Wire Centers for UNE Dedicated Transport**

<u>State</u>	<u>Wire Center</u>	<u>CLLI</u>	<u>Effective</u>
FL	Goldenrod	GLRDFLXA	April 22, 2005
FL	Lake Brantley	LKBRFLXA	April 22, 2005
FL	Naples	NPLSFLXD	June 1, 2006
FL	Ocala	OCALFLXA	June 1, 2006
FL	Tallahassee	TLHSFLXD	April 22, 2005
MO	Jefferson City	JFCYMOXA	April 22, 2005
NC	Fayetteville	FYVLNCXA	April 22, 2005
NC	Rocky Mount	RCMTNCXA	April 22, 2005
VA	Charlottesville	CHVLVAXA	June 1, 2006

**All other Embarq Wire Centers are currently considered Tier 3 Wire Centers for UNE Dedicated Transport**

## **EXHIBIT B**

**Embarq**

**DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING**

**For**

**CLECs**



## **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

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## **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

In the unlikely event of a disaster occurring that affects Embarq's long-term ability to deliver traffic to a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC), general procedures have been developed to hasten the recovery process. Since each location is different and could be affected by an assortment of potential problems, a detailed recovery plan is impractical. However, in the process of reviewing recovery activities for specific locations, some basic procedures emerge that appear to be common in most cases.

These general procedures should apply to any disaster that affects the delivery of traffic for an extended time period. Each CLEC will be given the same parity consideration during an outage and service will be restored as quickly as possible.

This document will cover the basic recovery procedures that would apply to every CLEC.

### **2.0 IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM**

During the early stages of problem detection, the NOC will be able to tell which CLECs are affected by the catastrophe. Further analysis and/or first hand observation will determine if the disaster has affected CLEC equipment only; Embarq equipment only or a combination. The

equipment that is affected will largely determine the initial restoration activity.

Once the nature of the disaster is determined and after verifying the cause of the problem, the NOC will initiate reroutes and/or transfers that are jointly agreed upon by the affected CLECs' Network Management Center and the Embarq NOC. The type and percentage of controls used will depend upon available network capacity. Controls necessary to stabilize the situation will be invoked and the NOC will attempt to re-establish as much traffic as possible.

The service centers will also be impacted by a disaster situation, and separate measures for their recovery are included as well.

### **3.0 SITE CONTROL**

In the total loss of building use scenario, what likely exists will be a smoking pile of rubble. This rubble will contain many components, which could be dangerous. It could also contain any personnel on the premises at the time of the disaster. For these reasons, the local fire marshal with the assistance of the police will control the site until the building is no longer a threat to surrounding properties and the companies have secured the site from the general public.

#### **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

During this time, the majority owner of the building should be arranging for a demolition contractor to mobilize to the site with the primary objective of reaching the cable entrance facility for a damage assessment. The results of this assessment would then dictate immediate plans for restoration, both short term and permanent.

In a less catastrophic event, i.e., the building is still standing and the cable entrance facility is usable, the situation is more complex. Local authorities will initially control the site until the threat to adjacent property has diminished. Once the site is returned to the control of the companies, the following events should occur.

An initial assessment of the main building infrastructure systems (mechanical, electrical, fire and life safety, elevators, and others) will establish building needs. Once these needs are determined, the majority owner should lead the building restoration efforts. There may be situations where



the site will not be totally restored within the confines of the building. The companies must individually determine their needs and jointly assess the cost of permanent restoration to determine the overall plan of action.

Multiple restoration trailers from each company will result in the need for designated space and installation order. This layout and control is required to maximize the amount of restoration equipment that can be placed at the site, and the priority of placements.

Care must be taken in this planning to insure other restoration efforts have logistical access to the building. Major components of telephone and building equipment will need to be removed and replaced. A priority for this equipment must also be jointly established to facilitate overall site restoration. (Example: If the AC switchgear has sustained damage, this would be of the highest priority in order to regain power, lighting, and HVAC throughout the building.)

If the site will not accommodate the required restoration equipment, the companies would then need to quickly arrange with local authorities for street closures, rights of way and other possible options available.

#### **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

In the worse case scenario, many environmental concerns must be addressed. Along with the police and fire marshal, the state environmental protection department will be on site to monitor the situation.

Items to be concerned with in a large central office building could include:

##### **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

1. Emergency engine fuel supply. Damage to standby equipment and the fuel handling equipment could have created “spill” conditions that have to be handled within state and federal regulations.

2. Asbestos containing materials that may be spread throughout the wreckage. Asbestos could be in many components of building, electrical, mechanical, outside plant distribution, and telephone systems.
3. Lead and acid. These materials could be present in potentially large quantities depending upon the extent of damage to the power room.
4. Mercury and other regulated compounds resident in telephone equipment.
5. Other compounds produced by the fire or heat.

Once a total loss event occurs at a large site, local authorities will control immediate clean up (water placed on the wreckage by the fire department) and site access.

At some point, the companies will become involved with local authorities in the overall planning associated with site clean up and restoration. Depending on the clean up approach taken, delays in the restoration of several hours to several days may occur.

In a less severe disaster, items above are more defined and can be addressed individually depending on the damage.

In each case, the majority owner should coordinate building and environmental restoration as well as maintain proper planning and site control.

## **5.0 EMERGENCY RESTORATION PLAN FOR CSO ORGANIZATION**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This plan provides a basic organizational structure and defines areas of responsibility for a wide range of disasters. It is intended to allow and encourage maximum organizational flexibility in responding to all potential disasters. The organization outlined here includes only those people who normally would support the Service Center operations.

## **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

### **5.2 General Information**

As soon as it is determined that an emergency situation exists, the Service Center Manager will hold a meeting with the Local Assessment Team and make plans for placing the Disaster Recovery Plan into effect.

The assessment teams areas of responsibilities will be determined and assigned by the Service Center Manager.

As soon as practical, the Service Center Manager will use all means available for alerting the personnel who will be needed to make the assessment, keeping in mind that the assessment should be completed as soon as possible after an emergency occurrence.

After personnel report, the Service Center Manager, or his designated representative, will provide the necessary information to begin the damage assessments.

It is most important that the Service Center Manager ensure that the assessment team is properly instructed and keeps in mind Embarq's safety practices and abides by them while securing center assessment information.

### **6.0 EMERGENCY RESTORATION**

In the event an emergency situation develops, or is in the process of developing, the Service Center Manager will hold a meeting with the Local Assessment team to place the Disaster Recovery Plan into operation.

## **6.1 Local Service Center Assessment Team**

- Service Center Manager
- Manager-Buildings/Grounds
- Security Manager
- Information Services Manager
- Manager Safety /Risk/Loss
- Public Relations Manager

## **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

### **6.2 Agenda for Meeting**

The Local Assessment Team should review the following subjects and take action as necessary to expedite the restoration of service.

- Departments affected
- AC power failures
- LAN Connectivity
- Communication System Assessment
- Working Conditions (weather, delays, etc.)
- Work force requirements (forces on the job, in transit, etc.)
- Extra Forces needed
- Contractors needed
- Restoration schedules – temporary/permanent
- Equipment requirements
- General review of responsibilities
- Secure from Decision Support work order number

## **7.0 EMERGENCY RESTORATION PRIORITY**

The priority for restoration will be established at the time of the emergency or disaster, as conditions dictate. The following are considerations for restoration in order of priority:

1. Assignment
2. Remote Entry
3. CLEC

## **8.0 WORK DISTRIBUTION RECOMMENDATION**

Scottsbluff, Nebraska - All work can be routed to Jefferson City, Missouri.

Jefferson City, Missouri - All work can be routed to Carlisle.

Carlisle, Pennsylvania - All work can be routed to Jefferson City, Missouri

Fayetteville, North Carolina -

Remote Entry for Companies "O" & "C" to Winter Garden.

Remote Entry for Company "S" to Carlisle.

## **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

Assignment for Company "C" to Las Vegas

Assignment for Company "S" to Ft. Myers

Assignment for Company "O" to Jefferson City

CLEC to Ft. Myers

Las Vegas, Nevada

Remote Entry to Winter Garden and Carlisle  
Assignment to Fayetteville, Ft. Myers, and Jefferson City  
CLEC to Fayetteville

Winter Garden, Florida  
Remote entry to Jefferson City, Carlisle, and Fayetteville  
Ft. Myers, Florida  
Assignment to Las Vegas, Jefferson City, Carlisle, and Fayetteville  
CLEC to Las Vegas and Fayetteville

Note: The techs will call directly to the 800 number of the receiving center. This will also help with work distribution.

## **9.0 EMERGENCY RESTORATION PLAN FOR NETWORK ORGANIZATION CENTER**

### **9.1 Disaster Management Structure**

The Disaster Recovery Management Team is compromised of internal and external personnel responsible for maintaining and executing the plan. The Plan addresses both short and long term disaster but is flexible enough to resolve less severe disruptions.

The nature of the disruption typically indicates the specific resources needed for recovery. Therefore, the resources utilized by the Recovery Team are directly related to the extent of the damage caused by the event.

The primary responsibilities of the Disaster Recovery Management Team are to:

- Accomplish rapid and efficient recovery of the network and application systems at the primary and alternate site locations.

### **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

- Manage recovery and non-recovery activities to protect vital NOC functions until normal operations are resumed.
- Conduct streamlined reporting of recovery progress from the recovery team level upward to Executive Management and downward to affected personnel.

The Disaster Recovery Management Team consists of:

- NOC Director
- Manager of Special Services
- Manager of Technical Assistance
- Manager of Surveillance
- Manager of Scheduling & Administration

All leadership positions on the Recovery Team are required to have an alternate person to assume their position in the case they are not available at the time of the disaster and subsequent recovery.

## **9.2 Network Operations Center- Director**

The NOC Director manages the recovery and restoration effort, reporting recovery and progress and problems to Executive Management. All individual groups within the NOC function under this supervision throughout the recovery and restoration. Managers of the groups report recovery status directly to the NOC Director.

In a non-disaster mode the Director assumes the role in ensuring that the Plan is properly documented, maintained and tested in order to ensure that a state of readiness always exists sufficient to respond to any level of disaster. Functional management groups operating under this direction are:

Internal:

- Technical Assistance
- Special Services
- Scheduling and Administration

- Surveillance
- Corporate Communications (Public Relations)

## **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

### **10.0 RECOVERY PROCEDURES**

The nature and severity of any disaster will influence the recovery procedures. One crucial factor in determining how Embarq will proceed with restoration is whether or not Embarq's equipment is incapacitated. Regardless of who's equipment is out of service, Embarq will move as quickly as possible to aid with service recovery; however, the approach that will be taken may differ depending upon the location of the problem.

#### **10.1 CLEC OUTAGE**

For a problem limited to one CLEC (or a building with multiple CLECs). Embarq has several options available for restoring service quickly. For those CLECs that have agreements with other CLECs, Embarq can immediately start directing traffic to a provisional CLEC for completion. This alternative is dependent upon Embarq having concurrence from the affected CLECs.

Whether or not the affected CLECs have requested a traffic transfer to another CLEC will not impact Embarq's resolve to re-establish traffic to the original destination as quickly as possible.

#### **10.2 SPRINT OUTAGE**

Because Embarq's equipment has varying degrees of impact on the service provided to the



CLECs, restoring service from damaged Embarq equipment is different. The outage will probably impact a number of Carriers simultaneously.

A disaster involving any of Embarq's equipment locations could impact the CLECs, some more than others. A disaster at a Central Office (CO) would only impact the delivery of traffic to and from that Center (SWC), then traffic from the entire area to those Carriers served from that switch would also be impacted. If the switch functions as an Access tandem or there is a tandem in the building, traffic from every CO to every CLEC could be interrupted. A disaster that destroys a facility hub could disrupt various traffic flows, even though the switching equipment may be unaffected.

The NOC would be the first group to observe a problem involving Embarq's equipment. Shortly after a disaster, the NOC will begin applying controls and finding reroutes for the completion of as much traffic as possible. These reroutes may involve delivering traffic to alternate Carriers upon receiving approval from affected carriers and notification of the CLECs involved. In some cases, changes in translations will be required.

### **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

#### **10.2.1 Loss of a Central Office**

When Embarq loses a Central Office, the NOC will

- a) Place specialists and emergency equipment on notice.
- b) Inventory the damage to determine what equipment and/or functions are lost,
- c) Move containerized emergency equipment and facility equipment to the stricken area, if necessary.
- d) Begin reconnecting service for Hospitals, Police and other emergency agency customers of CLECs and Embarq in a nondiscriminatory manner in accordance with SNEP-TSP guidelines, and
- e) Begin restoring service to CLECs and other customers

### **10.2.2 Loss of a Central Office with Serving Wire Center Functions**

The loss of a Central Office that also serves as a Serving Wire Center (SWC) will be restored as described in section 5.2.1.

### **10.2.3 Loss of a Central Office with Tandem Functions**

When Embarq loses a Central Office building that serves as an Access Tandem and as a SWC, the NOC will

- a) Place specialists and emergency equipment on notice;
- b) Inventory the damage to determine what equipment and/or functions are lost.
- c) Move containerized emergency equipment and facility equipment to the stricken area, if necessary.
- d) Begin reconnecting service for Hospitals, Police and other emergency agency customers of CLECs and a Embarq in a nondiscriminatory manner in accordance with NSEP-TSP guidelines, and
- e) Redirect as much traffic as possible to the alternate access tandem (if available) for delivery to those CLECs utilizing a different location as a SWC.
- f) Begin aggregating traffic to a location near the damaged building. From this location, begin re-establishing trunk groups to the CLECs for the delivery of traffic normally found on the direct trunk groups. (This aggregation point may be the alternate access tandem location or another CO on a primary facility route.)
- g) Begin restoring service to CLECs and other customers.

## **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

### **10.2.4 Loss of a Facility Hub**

In the event that Embarq loses a facility hub, the recovery process is much the same as above. The recovery effort will include:

- a) Placing specialists and emergency equipment on notice;
- b) Inventorying the damage to determine what equipment and/or functions are lost;
- c) Moving containerized emergency equipment to the stricken area, if necessary;
- d) Reconnecting service for Hospitals, Police and other emergency agency customers of CLECs and Embarq in a nondiscriminatory manner in accordance with NSEP-TSP guidelines; and
- e) Restoring service to CLECs and other customers. If necessary, Embarq will aggregate the traffic at another location and build temporary facilities. This alternative would be viable for a location that is destroyed and building repairs are required.

### **10.3 COMBINED OUTAGE (CLEC AND SPRINT EQUIPMENT)**

In some instances, a disaster may impact Embarq's equipment as well as the CLECs'. This situation will be handled in much the same way as described in section 5.2.3. Since Embarq and the CLECs will be utilizing temporary equipment, close coordination will be required.

#### **10.3.1 ALTERNATIVE BUILDING**

In preparation for an extended outage, each Service Center Manager to identify with Land & Buildings an alternate company location that could be converted to a temporary service center.

Alternate space to accommodate:

- Work stations
- Computers
- Telephones
- LAN Connections

This space would not be occupied or furnished in advance but would be equipped with LAN and telephone connections.

## **GENERAL CLEC DISASTER RECOVERY PROCEDURE**

### **11.0 T1 IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

During the restoration of service after a disaster, Embarq may be forced to aggregate traffic for delivery to a CLEC. During this process T1 traffic may be consolidated onto DS3s and may become unidentifiable to the Carrier. Because resources will be limited, Embarq may be forced to “package” this traffic entirely differently than normally received by the CLECs. Therefore, a method for identifying the T1 traffic on the DS3s and providing the information to the Carriers is required.

### **12.0 ACRONYMS**

CO	Central Office (Embarq)
DS3	Facility that carries 28 T1s (672 circuits)
CLEC	Competitive Local Exchange Carrier
NOC	Network Operations Center
SWC	Serving Wire Center (Embarq switch)
T1	Facility that carries 24 circuits