



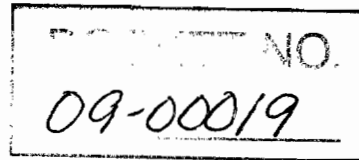
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SM

PAID T.R.A.	
Chk #	53106
Amount	50.00
Rcvd By	T3
Date	2/9/09

February 5, 2009

Mr. Eddie Roberson  
Interim Chairman  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243



REC'D  
2009 FEB -9 PM 1:25  
T.R.A. Doc. Rm

Re: Petition for Approval of Traffic Exchange Agreement between Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. and Verizon Wireless Tennessee Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless

Dear Interim Chairman Roberson:

Transmitted herewith is a "Petition for Approval of Traffic Exchange Agreement" ("Petition") by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. An original and 13 copies of the Petition are enclosed. Also enclosed is an additional copy of the Petition which I would appreciate your office staff stamping as "filed" and returning to me in the enclosed return envelope.

A check in the amount of \$50.00 made payable to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority is enclosed as payment of the filing fees.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions in regards to this filing.

Sincerely,

Gregory L. Anderson  
General Manager

rfs

c: file

Marc Sterling – Verizon Wireless

Before the  
**TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**  
Nashville, TN

In Re:

Petition for Approval of Traffic Exchange)  
Agreement between Bledsoe Telephone)  
Cooperative Corporation, Inc. and Verizon)  
Wireless Tennessee Partnership, D/B/A)  
Verizon Wireless )

Docket No. 09 \_\_\_\_\_

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PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF TRAFFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

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Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. ("Bledsoe") respectfully petitions the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority") for approval of a "Traffic Exchange Agreement" dated April 1, 2008 (the "Agreement"), negotiated between Bledsoe and Verizon Wireless Tennessee Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("VZW") under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunication Act of 1996 (the "Act").<sup>1</sup> In support of its petition, Bledsoe states the following:

1. Bledsoe and VZW (jointly "the Parties") have successfully negotiated the Agreement which sets forth the terms and conditions under which the companies agree to exchange Local Traffic (as defined by the Agreement) between their respective networks. The parties agree to exchange Local Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic through Direct or Indirect Interconnection as described in the Agreement. A copy of the Agreement is attached to this petition and incorporated in this document by reference.

2. In accordance with Section 252(e) of the Act, Bledsoe submits the Agreement to the Authority for its review and approval. The terms of the Agreement became effective on date of last signature by the Parties.

3. Section 252(e) of the Act provides that the Authority may either approve or reject the Agreement within ninety days of its submission for approval. The Act

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<sup>1</sup> 47 USC Sections 251 and 252

further provides that the Authority may only reject a negotiated agreement if it finds the agreement or any portion of it 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.

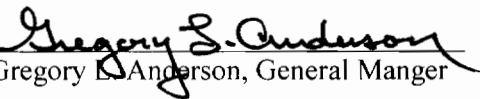
4. Bledsoe believes that the Agreement meets the standards for approval by the Authority.

5. As required by Section 252(i) of the Act and Section 51.809 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules,<sup>2</sup> Bledsoe will make the terms and conditions of the Agreement available to any requesting telecommunications carrier.

In view of the foregoing, Bledsoe requests that the Authority approve the Agreement negotiated by the Parties.

Respectfully submitted,

**BLEDSON TELEPHONE  
COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, INC**

By:   
Gregory L. Anderson, General Manager

PO Box 609, 338 Cumberland Avenue  
Pikeville, Tennessee 37367-0609  
423-447-2121  
January 26, 2009

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<sup>2</sup> 47 CFR Section 51.809

**TRAFFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT**

**BY AND BETWEEN**

**BLEDSON TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE CORPORATION,  
INC.**

**AND**

**VERIZON WIRELESS TENNESSEE PARTNERSHIP**

**D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS**

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**Attachments:**

- A. Reserved for Future Use

## **I. ARTICLE I**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This traffic exchange and compensation agreement ("Agreement") is effective as of the 1st day of April, 2008 (the "Effective Date"), by and between Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. ("Bledsoe") with offices at 338 Cumberland Avenue, Pikeville, TN 37367 and Verizon Wireless Tennessee Partnership doing business as Verizon Wireless ("VZW"), with an office and principal place of business at One Verizon Way, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920.

### **2. RECITALS**

WHEREAS, Bledsoe is an incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, VZW is a Commercial Mobile Radio Service provider of two-way mobile communications services operating within the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, The Parties acknowledge that Bledsoe is entitled to maintain that it is a rural telephone company (as defined in 47 U.S.C. 153) as provided by 47 U.S.C. 251(f). By entering into this Agreement, Bledsoe is not waiving its right to maintain that it is a rural telephone company and its right to maintain that it is exempt from § 251(c) under 47 U.S.C. 251 (f) of the Act; and

WHEREAS, Bledsoe and VZW exchange calls between their networks and wish to establish traffic exchange and compensation arrangements for exchanging traffic as specified below.

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

## **II. ARTICLE II**

### **1. DEFINITIONS**

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

- 1.1 “Act” means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 1.2 “As Defined in the Act” means as specifically defined by the Act, as may be interpreted from time to time by the FCC, the Commission, Tennessee state courts, or federal courts.
- 1.3 “As Described in the Act” means as described in or required by the Act, as may be interpreted from time to time by the FCC, the Commission, Tennessee state courts, or federal courts.
- 1.4 “Affiliate” means a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “own” means to own an equity interest (or the equivalent thereof) of more than ten percent (10%).
- 1.5 “Central Office Switch” means a switch used to provide Telecommunications Services, including, but not limited to:
  - (a) “End Office Switch” is a switch in which the subscriber station loops are terminated for connection to either lines or trunks. The subscriber receives terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions for a defined geographic area by means of an End Office Switch.
  - (b) “Remote End Office Switch” is a switch in which the subscriber station loops are terminated. The control equipment providing terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions would reside in a host office. Local switching capabilities may be resident in a Remote End Office Switch.
  - (c) “Host Office Switch” is a switch with centralized control over the functions of one or more Remote End Office Switches. A Host Office Switch can serve as an end office as well as providing services to other remote end offices requiring terminating, signaling, transmission, and related functions including local switching.
  - (d) “Tandem Office Switch” is a switching system that establishes trunk-to-trunk connections. Local tandems switch calls from one end office to another within the same geographic area, and access tandems switch traffic from host or end offices to and from an Interexchange Carrier. A Tandem Office Switch can provide host office or end office switching functions as well as the tandem functions.

- 1.6 “Commercial Mobile Radio Services” or “CMRS” means a radio communication service between mobile stations or receivers and land stations, or by mobile stations communicating among themselves that is provided for profit and that makes interconnected service available to the public or to such classes of eligible users as to be effectively available to a substantial portion of the public. 47 CFR § 20.
- 1.7 “Commission” means the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.
- 1.8 “Extended Area Service” or “EAS” is as defined and specified in Bledsoe’s then current General Customer Services Tariff.
- 1.9 “Effective Date” means the date first above written.
- 1.10 “FCC” means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 1.11 “Interconnection” for purposes of this Agreement is the linking of Bledsoe and VZW networks for the exchange of telecommunications traffic described in this Agreement.
- 1.12 “Interexchange Carrier” or “IXC” means a carrier, other than a CMRS carrier, that provides or carries, directly or indirectly, InterLATA Service or IntraLATA Toll Traffic.
- 1.13 “InterLATA Service” means telecommunications between a point located in a Local Access and Transport Area and a point located outside such area.
- 1.14 “IntraLATA Toll Traffic,” means those station calls that originate and terminate within the same Local Access and Transport Area and that are carried outside Bledsoe’s Local Service Area and Extended Area Service.
- 1.15 “InterMTA Traffic” is Telecommunications traffic, which, at the beginning of the call, originates in one MTA and terminates in another MTA.
- 1.16 “Local Access and Transport Area” or “LATA” means a contiguous geographic area:
  - (a) Established before February 8, 1996, by a Bell operating company such that no exchange area includes points within more than 1 metropolitan statistical area, consolidated metropolitan statistical area, or State, except as expressly permitted under the AT&T Consent Decree; or



- (b) Established or modified by a Bell operating company after February 8, 1996, and approved by the Commission.
- 1.17 “Local Service Area” means, for VZW, Major Trading Area Number 11 (Atlanta) and for Bledsoe, its local calling area contained in Bledsoe’s then current General Customer Services Tariff.
- 1.18 “Local Telecommunications Traffic” is defined for all purposes under this Agreement as Telecommunications traffic that is originated on one Party’s network, and terminated on the other Party’s network within the same Major Trading Area (MTA). Local Telecommunications Traffic may be handled pursuant to an approved interconnection agreement between the originating Party and a carrier, which performs only a contractual transiting function for the originating Party in lieu of a direct connection between the Parties, provided that the service provided by VZW is a two-way mobile service. For purposes of determining originating and terminating points, the originating or terminating point for Bledsoe shall be the end office serving the calling or called party, and for VZW shall be the cell site location which services the calling or called party at the beginning of the call.
- 1.19 “Local Exchange Carrier” or “LEC” means any person that is engaged in the provision of telephone exchange service or exchange access. Such term does not include a person insofar as such person is engaged in the provision of a commercial mobile service under § 332(c) of the Act, except to the extent that the Federal Communications Commission finds that such service should be included in the definition of such term. 47 U.S.C. § 153(26).
- 1.20 “Major Trading Area” or “MTA” means the Major Trading Area designated by the FCC which is the service area based on the Rand McNally 1992 Commercial Atlas & Marketing Guide, 123<sup>rd</sup> edition, at pages 38-39, as further specified or modified by 47 C.F.R. § 24.202(a) or other applicable law.
- 1.21 “Mobile Station” means a radio-communication station capable of being moved and which ordinarily does move. 47 U.S.C. § 153(28).
- 1.22 “NPA” or the “Number Plan Area” also referred to as an “area code” refers to the three-digit code which precedes the NXX in a dialing sequence and identifies the general calling area within the North American Numbering Plan scope to which a call is routed to (*i.e.*, NPA/NXX-XXXX).
- 1.23 “NXX” means the three-digit code, which appears as the first three digits of a seven-digit telephone number within a valid NPA or area code.

- 1.24 “Party” means either Bledsoe or VZW, and “Parties” means Bledsoe and VZW.
- 1.25 “Point of Interconnection” or “POI” means the mutually agreed upon point between the Parties’ respective networks where an originating Party’s traffic is deemed to be handed off to the terminating Party’s network.
- 1.26 “Rate Center” means the specific geographic point and corresponding geographic area that is associated with one or more NPA-NXX codes that have been assigned to an incumbent LEC for its provision of exchange services.
- 1.27 “Reciprocal Compensation” means an arrangement between two carriers in which each receives the same compensation rate from the other carrier for the transport and termination on each carrier’s network of Local Telecommunications Traffic, as defined in § 1.18 above, that originates on the network facilities of the other carrier. Compensation, regardless of the Party that receives it, is symmetrical.
- 1.28 “Telecommunications” means the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user’s choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received. 47 U.S.C. § 153(43).
- 1.29 “Telecommunications Act” means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 1.30 “Telecommunications Carrier” means any provider of telecommunications services, except that such term does not include aggregators of telecommunications services (as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 226(a)(2)). A Telecommunications Carrier shall be treated as a common carrier under this chapter only to the extent that it is engaged in providing telecommunications services, except that the Federal Communications Commission shall determine whether the provision of fixed and mobile satellite service shall be treated as common carriage. 47 U.S.C. § 153(44).
- 1.31 “Telecommunications Services” means the offering of Telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used.
- 1.32 “Termination” means the switching of Local Telecommunications Traffic at the terminating carrier’s end office switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of such traffic to the called Party’s premises or mobile handset.

- 1.33 “Transiting Traffic” is traffic that originates from one provider’s network, “transits” one or more other provider’s network substantially unchanged, and terminates to yet another provider’s network.
- 1.34 “Transport” means the transmission and any necessary tandem switching from the Point of Interconnection between the two carriers to the terminating carrier’s End Office Switch that directly serves the called party, or equivalent facility provided by a carrier other than an incumbent LEC pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations § 51.701(c).
- 1.35 “Type 1 Service” often referred to as a line-side trunk connection, is a service that involves interconnection to a telephone company end office. A Type 1 Service is offered in connection with the provision of telephone numbers hosted by a Bledsoe switch. If available and economically feasible, SS7 functionality will be used.
- 1.36 “Type 2 Service” often referred to as a trunk side connection, is a service that involves interconnection to a telephone company end office (Type 2-B) or tandem (Type 2-A).

## **2.0 INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION**

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

## **3.0 SCOPE**

- 3.1 This Agreement is intended, *inter alia*, to describe and enable specific traffic exchange and Reciprocal Compensation arrangements between the Parties. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to provide arrangements not specifically provided for herein.
- 3.2 This Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and rates under which the Parties agree to interconnect the CMRS network of VZW and the ILEC network of Bledsoe for purposes of exchanging Local Telecommunications Traffic, provided that the service provided by VZW to its customer is a two-way mobile service as defined in 47 U.S.C. §

153(27). This Agreement does not cover VZW one-way paging service traffic or fixed wireless. .

- 3.3 This Agreement relates to exchange of traffic between Bledsoe and VZW. VZW represents that it is a CMRS provider of telecommunications services to subscribers in MTA No. 11 (Atlanta). Additions or changes to VZW's NPA/NXXs will be as listed in Telcordia's Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") under Operating Company Number ("OCN") 6673. With respect to wireless-to-landline traffic, VZW shall not deliver traffic to Bledsoe that originated on a Non-Party Carrier's network.
- 3.4 With respect to landline-to-wireless traffic, this Agreement is limited to Bledsoe end user customers' traffic for which Bledsoe has tariff authority to carry. Bledsoe's NPA/NXX(s) are listed in the LERG under OCN 0554.
- 3.5 Any amendment, modification, or supplement to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each Party.

#### **4.0 SERVICE AGREEMENT**

##### Description of Arrangements:

This Agreement provides for the following interconnection arrangements between the networks of Bledsoe and VZW. Additional arrangements that may be mutually agreed to by the Parties in the future will be delineated in Attachment A to this Agreement. An NPA/NXX assigned to VZW shall be treated as Local Service Area traffic and included in any local or EAS calling scope, or similar program, to the same extent as any Bledsoe or other incumbent LEC's NPA/NXX in the same rate center provided that VZW assigns numbers from such NPA/NXX to customers within the Local Service Area of Bledsoe and VZW has network facilities to serve such customers.

- 4.1 Direct Interconnection at Pikeville: At VZW's option, a two-way trunk group will be established between Bledsoe's Pikeville, TN End Office Switch (PKVLTNXADS0) and VZW's Knoxville, TN switch (KNVNTN76CM0), with the POI designated at a technically feasible meet point on Bledsoe's network. VZW will accept one hundred percent (100%) of the responsibility to deliver its originated traffic to and receive Bledsoe-originated traffic from the meet point POI. In return, Bledsoe agrees to be responsible for one hundred percent (100%) of the transport facility costs to deliver its originated traffic to and receive VZW-originated traffic from the meet point POI.

4.1.1 Landline-to-Wireless:

Local Service Area calls originated on Bledsoe's network for termination on VZW's network shall be routed from Bledsoe to VZW *via* the two-way direct trunk group.

4.1.2 Wireless-to-Landline:

Local Service Area calls originated on VZW's network within MTA No. 11 (Atlanta) for termination to users of Bledsoe's network that can be reached *via* the connection to the Pikeville End Office Switch shall be routed from VZW's network *via* the two-way direct trunk group to Bledsoe's Pikeville End Office Switch for termination by Bledsoe to its customers, as appropriate.

- 4.1.3 If or when established, both Parties will use best efforts to route Local Service Area calls to the other Party over the direct interconnection facilities except in the case of an emergency, temporary equipment failure, or blocking of existing direct interconnection facilities. Should either Party determine that the other Party is routing its originated traffic indirectly, the originating Party agrees to update its routing and translations tables to move such traffic to the direct interconnection facilities within five (5) business days.

4.2 Indirect Interconnection:

To the extent that one Party has entered into or may enter into contractual arrangements with a third-party for the delivery of one Party's originated traffic to the other Party's network (*i.e.* traffic exchanged indirectly between the Parties) for termination to the terminating Party's customers, the terminating Party will accept this traffic subject to compensation arrangement as outlined in § 5 below. The Parties agree that to the extent Local Telecommunications Traffic is exchanged indirectly *via* a third party LEC ("Third Party Tandem Provider"), the originating Party is responsible for any transit fees imposed by the Third Party Tandem Provider. The Parties agree that this will in no way prejudice any position either Party may take regarding financial responsibility for charges by Third Party Tandem Providers with respect to future agreements or regulatory or legislative proceedings.

This arrangement for indirect interconnection will be subject to renegotiation if by change of law or for any other reason the Third Party Tandem Provider no longer offers the transiting service.

## **5.0 COMPENSATION**

### **5.1 Traffic Subject to Reciprocal Compensation:**

Reciprocal Compensation is applicable for Transport and Termination of Local Telecommunications Traffic as defined in § 1.18 and is related to the exchange of traffic described in § 4 and Attachment A, as applicable. For the purposes of billing compensation for Local Telecommunications Traffic, billed minutes will be based upon actual usage recorded and/or records/reports provided by the transiting carrier. Measured usage begins when the terminating recording switch receives answer supervision from the called end-user and ends when the terminating recording switch receives or sends disconnect (release message) supervision, whichever occurs first. The measured usage is aggregated at the end of the measurement cycle and rounded to a whole minute. Billing for Local Telecommunications Traffic shall be based on the aggregated measured usage less traffic recorded as local that is deemed InterMTA Traffic based on the default factor provided in § 5.2.

The rate for Reciprocal Compensation for Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged directly shall be \$0.010 per minute.

The rate for Reciprocal Compensation for Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged indirectly shall be \$0.0125 per minute.

The Parties agree to bill each other for Local Telecommunications Traffic as described in this Agreement unless the Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged between the Parties is balanced and falls within an agreed upon threshold ("Traffic Balance Threshold"). The Parties agree that for purposes of this Agreement, the Traffic Balance Threshold is reached when the Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged, both directly and indirectly, falls between 55% / 45% in either the wireless-to-landline or landline-to-wireless direction and the total volume of Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged is less than two million minutes per month. When the actual usage data for three (3) consecutive months indicates that the Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged, both directly and indirectly, falls within the Traffic Balance Threshold, then either Party may provide the other Party a written request, along with verifiable information supporting such request, to eliminate billing for Reciprocal Compensation per minute. Upon written consent by the Party receiving the request, which shall not be withheld unreasonably, there will be no billing for Reciprocal Compensation on a going forward basis unless otherwise agreed to by both Parties, in writing. The Parties' agreement to eliminate billing for Reciprocal Compensation carries with it the

precondition regarding the Traffic Balance Threshold discussed above. As such, the two points have been negotiated as one interrelated term containing specific rates and conditions, which are non-separable for purposes of § 16, hereof.

5.2 InterMTA Traffic:

The Parties agree that traffic that is directly or indirectly delivered, may be rated and recorded as Local Telecommunications Traffic subject to Reciprocal Compensation, but may have originated and terminated in different MTAs and therefore, is InterMTA Traffic. Recognizing that neither Party currently has a way of accurately measuring this InterMTA Traffic, the Parties agree, for the purposes of this Agreement, to a factor of five percent (5%) as an estimate of InterMTA Traffic (50% interstate, 50% intrastate). InterMTA Traffic is subject to switched access compensation. All Bledsoe to VZW InterMTA traffic shall be delivered to VZW via an Interexchange Carrier that will be responsible for any switched access compensation to VZW. Therefore, the InterMA factor for Bledsoe-originated traffic is zero percent (0%).

5.3 Calculation of Payments and Billing:

5.3.1 VZW will compensate Bledsoe for Local Telecommunications Traffic and InterMTA Traffic delivered to Bledsoe for termination to its customers, as prescribed and at the rate provided in §§ 5.1 and 5.2. Bledsoe will compensate VZW for Local Telecommunications Traffic originated by Bledsoe customers on Bledsoe's network and delivered to VZW, for termination to its customers, as prescribed in § 4 and at the rate provided in § 5.1.

5.3.2 VZW shall prepare a monthly billing statement to Bledsoe, reflecting the calculation of Reciprocal Compensation due VZW. Bledsoe shall prepare a monthly billing statement to VZW, which will separately reflect the calculation of Reciprocal Compensation due Bledsoe. Billing shall be based on actual measured usage, when available, or on billing records provided by the Third Party Tandem Provider for Local Telecommunications Traffic delivered indirectly. To the extent that VZW does not have the capability to bill based on actual measured usage, VZW shall bill using a factor that is based on each Party's proportion of originating Local Telecommunications Traffic to total Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged between the Parties. This estimated percentage is referred to as the Traffic Factor and is listed below. The Parties agree to review the Traffic Factor on a periodic basis and, if warranted by the actual usage, revise the Traffic Factor appropriately.

- a) Landline-to-Wireless 30%
- b) Wireless-to-Landline 70%

5.3.3 Bledsoe will prepare its bill in accordance with its existing CABS / SECABS billing systems. VZW will prepare its bill in accordance with its existing process for billing Reciprocal Compensation. The Parties will make an effort to conform to current and future OBF (CABS BOS) standards, insofar as is reasonable. In addition, the Parties will abide by all signaling standards as described in § 7.8.

5.3.4 Each party may request to inspect, during normal business hours, the records which are the basis for any monthly bill issued by the other Party and to request copies thereof provided that the requested records do not exceed twelve (12) months in age from the date the monthly bill containing said record information was issued.

5.3.5 All invoices under this Agreement shall be sent to:

<b>Verizon Wireless</b>	<b>Bledsoe</b>
Mary London Verizon Wireless 575 Hickory Hills Blvd. Whites Creek, TN 37189 615-386-5119	Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. 338 Cumberland Avenue P.O. Box 609 Pikeville, TN 37367 423-447-1230

## **6.0 NOTICE OF CHANGES**

If a Party contemplates a change in its network, which it believes will materially affect the inter-operability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide at least ninety (90) days advance written notice of such change to the other Party, provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to changes necessitated by emergencies or other circumstances outside the control of the party modifying its network.

## **7.0 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

7.1 Each Party is individually responsible to provide facilities within its network which are necessary for routing, transporting and, consistent with § 5, measuring and billing traffic from the other Party's network and for delivering such traffic to the other Party's network in an acceptable industry standard format, and to terminate the traffic it receives in that acceptable industry standard format to the proper address on its network.



The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including The National Network Security Plan and The Emergency Preparedness Plan. Neither Party shall use any service related to or use any of the services provided in this Agreement in any manner that prevents other persons from using their service or destroys the normal quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's customers, and subject to notice and a reasonable opportunity of the offending Party to cure any violation, either Party may discontinue or refuse service if the other Party violates this provision.

- 7.2 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its customers and to other Telecommunications Carriers.
- 7.3 Each Party is responsible for managing NXX codes assigned to it.
- 7.4 Each Party is responsible for obtaining Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") listings of the Common Language Location Identifier ("CLLI") assigned to its switches.
- 7.5 Each Party agrees to adhere to the blocking requirements for interconnection (P.01) as provided in Telcordia documentation GR145 - Core Compatibility for Interconnection of a Wireless Services Provider and a Local Exchange Company Network.
- 7.6 SS7 Out of Band Signaling (CCS/SS7) shall be the signaling of choice for interconnecting trunks where technically feasible for both Parties. Use of a third-party provider of SS7 trunks for connecting VZW to the Bledsoe SS7 systems is permitted. Such connections will meet generally accepted industry technical standards. Each Party is responsible for its own SS7 signaling and therefore, neither Party will bill the other SS7 signaling charges.
- 7.7 Each Party shall be responsible for its own independent connections to the 911/E911 network.
- 7.8 All originating traffic shall contain basic call information within the Initial Address Message (IAM) such as the calling number and will meet generally accepted industry technical standards. Altering of data parameters within the IAM shall not be permitted.
- 7.9 The Parties will offer service provider local number portability (LNP) in accordance with FCC rules and regulations. Service provider portability is the ability of users of Telecommunications Services to retain, existing telecommunications numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switching from one Telecommunications Carrier to another. Under this arrangement, the new Telecommunications Carrier

must directly provide Telecommunications Service to the End User Customer porting the telephone number. In order for a port request to be valid: 1) the End User Customer must retain his or her original telephone number; 2) the requesting Telecommunications Carrier's coverage area must overlap the geographic location in which the End User Customer's wireline telephone number is provisioned; and 3) the End User Customer must be served with Telecommunications Service directly by the Telecommunications Carrier requesting the port.

- 7.10 The Parties agree to comply with finalized FCC rules and orders, North American Numbering Council (NANC) procedures and guidelines concerning numbering and other industry guidelines related to network architecture, including but not limited to, North American Numbering Council Local Number Portability Architecture and Administrative Plan report, which was adopted by the FCC, Second Report and Order, CC Docket 95-116, released August 18, 1997, and Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines.
- 7.11 LNP Handbooks. Except where such handbooks, documents, or web information (a) conflicts with contract language; (b) adds charges not covered in this Agreement; (c) establishes unreasonable restrictions or demands; (d) conflicts with industry best practices as endorsed by NANC; or (e) conflicts with applicable law, each Party will use the other's operational handbooks or web-based procedures for interacting with one another (*e.g.* placing orders, handling maintenance issues, obtaining customer information). If provisions in or changes to the operational handbooks or web-based procedures of one Party cause significant modifications to the other Party's ("Disputing Party") processes and are outside normal industry practice, the Disputing Party may raise the concern with the Party whose procedures have changed. The Parties agree to discuss options for minimizing the impact of the change on the Disputing Party and implementing such options if appropriate. Adherence by a Party to a provision of the other Party's handbooks or procedures shall not constitute a waiver of the right to object to such provision, or to pursue the dispute resolution process regarding such provision.
- 7.12 Where direct interconnection has been established, each Party will perform local number portability ("LNP") database queries on its originated traffic prior to routing any of its originated traffic over the direct interconnection facilities, and will only route traffic over the direct interconnection facilities to the extent the local routing number ("LRN") returned from such queries belongs to the other Party.
- 7.13 When a ported telephone number becomes vacant, *e.g.*, the telephone number is no longer in service by the original end user customer; the

ported telephone number will be released back to the carrier who is the code holder or block holder.

## **8.0 TERM AND TERMINATION**

- 8.1 Subject to the provisions of § 14, the initial term of this Agreement shall be for a two-year term ("Term"), which shall commence on the Effective Date. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive month-to-month periods, unless not less than sixty (60) days prior to the end of the Term or any renewal term, either Party notifies the other Party of its intent to terminate this Agreement or negotiate a successor agreement. In the case of a notice to terminate, the other Party may request negotiation of a successor agreement up to the end of the then-current term of this Agreement.

If either Party has requested the negotiation of a successor agreement as described above, then during the period of negotiation of the successor agreement, each Party shall continue to perform its obligations and provide the services described herein until such time as the successor agreement become effective. The rates, terms and conditions applying during the interim period between the end of the then-current term of this Agreement and when the successor agreement is executed shall be trued-up to be consistent with the rates, terms and conditions of the successor agreement reached through negotiation or arbitration.

If the Parties are unable to negotiate a successor agreement within the statutory time frame set for negotiations under the Act, then either Party has the right to submit this matter to the Commission for resolution pursuant to the statutory rules for arbitration under the Act. If the Parties are unable to negotiate a successor agreement by the end of the statutory time frame, or any mutually agreed upon extension thereof, and neither Party submits this matter to the Commission for arbitration, then the Agreement shall terminate at the conclusion of the statutory time frame or at the end of the extension to the statutory time frame.

- 8.2 The Parties agree that disputed and undisputed amounts due under this Agreement shall be handled as follows:

- 8.2.1 If any portion of an amount due to a Party (the "Billing Party") under this Agreement is subject to a *bona fide* dispute between the Parties, the Party billed (the "Non-Paying Party") shall, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the invoice containing such disputed amount, give written notice to the Billing Party of the amounts it disputes ("Disputed Amounts") and include in such notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item. The Non-Paying Party shall pay when due all undisputed amounts to

the Billing Party. The Parties will work together in good faith to resolve issues relating to the disputed amounts. If the dispute is resolved such that payment of the disputed amount is required, whether for the original full amount or for the settlement amount, the Non-Paying Party shall pay the full disputed or settlement amounts with interest at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1½%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Tennessee applicable law. In addition, the Billing Party may initiate a complaint proceeding with the appropriate regulatory or judicial entity, if unpaid undisputed amounts become more than ninety (90) days past due, provided the Billing Party gives an additional thirty (30) days notice and opportunity to cure the default.

- 8.2.2 Any undisputed amounts not paid when due shall accrue interest from the date such amounts were due at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1½%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Tennessee applicable law.
- 8.2.3 Undisputed amounts shall be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice from the Billing Party.
- 8.3 Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement in accordance with this Section:
  - (a) Each Party shall comply immediately with its obligations as set forth above;
  - (b) Each Party shall promptly pay all amounts (including any late payment charges) owed under this Agreement;
  - (c) The provisions of § 11.0 and § 12.0 shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.
- 8.4 Either Party may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part in the event of a default of the other Party, provided, however, that the non-defaulting Party notifies the defaulting Party in writing of the alleged default and the defaulting Party does not implement mutually acceptable steps to remedy such alleged default within thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice thereof.

## **9.0 CANCELLATION CHARGES**

Except as provided herein, no cancellation charges shall apply.

## **10.0 SEVERABILITY**

- 10.1 The services, arrangements, terms and conditions of this Agreement were mutually negotiated by the Parties as a total arrangement and are intended to be non-severable. However, if any provision of this Agreement is held by a court or regulatory agency of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the rest of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected unless removal of that provision results in a material change to this Agreement. If a material change as described in this paragraph occurs as a result of action by a court or regulatory agency, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith for replacement language. If replacement language cannot be agreed upon within a reasonable time period, either Party may invoke dispute resolution procedures as set forth in this Agreement.

## **11.0 INDEMNIFICATION**

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

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

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

- 11.2 The Indemnified Party will notify the Indemnifying Party promptly in writing of any claims, lawsuits, or demands by customers or other third parties for which the Indemnified Party alleges that the Indemnifying Party is responsible under this Section, and, if requested by the

Indemnifying Party, will tender the defense of such claim, lawsuit or demand.

- (1) In the event the Indemnifying Party does not promptly assume or diligently pursue the defense of the tendered action, then the Indemnified Party may proceed to defend or settle said action and the Indemnifying Party shall hold harmless the Indemnified Party from any loss, cost liability, damage and expense.
- (2) In the event the Party otherwise entitled to indemnification from the other elects to decline such indemnification, then the Party making such an election may, at its own expense, assume defense and settlement of the claim, lawsuit or demand.
- (3) The Parties will cooperate in every reasonable manner with the defense or settlement of any claim, demand, or lawsuit.

## **12.0 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

- 12.1 No liability shall attach to either Party, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees, officers, directors, or partners for damages arising from errors, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, or delays in the course of establishing, furnishing, rearranging, moving, terminating, changing, or providing or failing to provide services or facilities (including the obtaining or furnishing of information with respect thereof or with respect to users of the services or facilities) in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- 12.2 Except as otherwise provided in § 11.0, no Party shall be liable to the other Party for any loss, defect or equipment failure caused by the conduct of the first Party, its agents, servants, contractors or others acting in aid or concert with that Party, except in the case of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- 12.3 In no event shall either Party have any liability whatsoever to the other Party for any indirect, special, consequential, incidental or punitive damages, including but not limited to loss of anticipated profits or revenue or other economic loss in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted or done hereunder (collectively, "Consequential Damages"), even if the other Party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

## **13.0 DISCLAIMER**

**EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED HEREIN, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY AS**

**TO MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR INTENDED OR PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO SERVICES PROVIDED HEREUNDER. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER PARTY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER PARTY WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD-PARTY.**

#### **14.0 REGULATORY APPROVAL**

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

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

#### **15.0 CHANGE IN LAW**

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

**16.0 MOST FAVORED NATION PROVISION**

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

**17.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

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

**17.1 Informal Resolution of Disputes:**

At the written request of a Party, each Party will, within thirty (30) days of such request, appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative, empowered to resolve such dispute, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The Parties intend that non-lawyer, business representatives conduct these negotiations. The location, format, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions shall be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and correspondence among the representatives for purposes of these negotiations shall be treated as Confidential Information developed for purposes of settlement, exempt from discovery, and shall not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of all Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and may, if otherwise discoverable, be discovered or otherwise admissible, be admitted in evidence, in the arbitration or lawsuit.

**17.2 Formal Dispute Resolution:**

If negotiations fail to produce an agreeable resolution within ninety (90) days, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanisms; provided, that upon mutual



agreement of the Parties such disputes may also be submitted to binding arbitration. In the case of an arbitration, each Party shall bear its own costs. The Parties shall equally split the fees of any mutually agreed upon arbitration procedure and the associated arbitrator.

17.3 Continuous Service:

The Parties shall continue providing services to each other during the pendency of any dispute resolution procedure, and the Parties shall continue to perform their payment obligations including making payments in accordance with this Agreement.

**18.0 MISCELLANEOUS**

18.1 Authorization:

18.1.1 Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Tennessee and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to any necessary regulatory approval.

18.1.2 Verizon Wireless Tennessee Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the state of Delaware, and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to any necessary regulatory approval.

18.2 Compliance:

Each Party shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations applicable to its performance under this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring or permitting either Party to contravene any mandatory requirement of federal or state law, or any regulations or orders adopted pursuant to such law.

18.3 Independent Contractors:

Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by VZW or Bledsoe in compliance with this Agreement, shall be deemed to create an agency or joint venture relationship between VZW and Bledsoe, or any relationship other than that of co-carriers. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by VZW or Bledsoe in compliance with this Agreement, shall create a contractual, agency, or any other type of relationship or third party liability between VZW and Bledsoe end users or others.

18.4 Force Majeure:

Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, work stoppages, equipment failure, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions or any other circumstances beyond the reasonable control and without fault or negligence of the Party affected. (collectively, a "Force Majeure Event"). If any Force Majeure Event occurs, the Party delayed or unable to perform shall give immediate notice to the other Party and shall take all reasonable steps to correct the Force Majeure Event. During the pendency of the Force Majeure Event, the duties of the Parties under this Agreement affected by the Force Majeure Event shall be abated and shall resume without liability thereafter.

18.5 Confidentiality:

18.5.1 Any information such as specifications, drawings, sketches, business information, forecasts, models, samples, data, computer programs and other software and documentation of one Party (a "Disclosing Party") that is furnished or made available or otherwise disclosed to the other Party or any of its employees, contractors, or agents (its "Representatives" and with a Party, a "Receiving Party") pursuant to this Agreement ("Proprietary Information") shall be deemed the property of the Disclosing Party. Proprietary Information, if written, shall be clearly and conspicuously marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary" or other similar notice, and, if oral or visual, shall be confirmed in writing as confidential by the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days after disclosure. Unless Proprietary Information was previously known by the Receiving Party free of any obligation to keep it confidential, or has been or is subsequently made public by an act not attributable to the Receiving Party, or is explicitly agreed in writing not to be regarded as confidential, such information: (i) shall be held in confidence by each Receiving Party; (ii) shall be disclosed to only those persons who have a need for it in connection with the provision of services required to fulfill this Agreement and shall be used by those persons only for such purposes; and (iii) may be used for other purposes only upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to in advance of such use in writing by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a Receiving

Party shall be entitled to disclose or provide Proprietary Information as required by any governmental authority or applicable law, upon advice of counsel, only in accordance with § 18.5.2 of this Agreement.

18.5.2 If any Receiving Party is required by any governmental authority or by applicable law to disclose any Proprietary Information, then such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible and prior to such disclosure. The Disclosing Party may then seek appropriate protective relief from all or part of such requirement. The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief, which such Disclosing Party chooses to obtain.

18.5.3 In the event of the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, each Party shall return to the other Party or destroy all Proprietary Information and other documents, work papers and other material (including all copies thereof) obtained from the other Party in connection with this Agreement and shall use all reasonable efforts, including instructing its employees and others who have had access to such information, to keep confidential and not to use any such information, unless such information is now, or is hereafter disclosed, through no act, omission or fault of such Party, in any manner making it available to the general public.

18.6 Governing Law:

This Agreement shall be governed by Federal law, where applicable, and otherwise by the domestic laws of the State of Tennessee without reference to conflict of law provisions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Parties may seek resolution of disputes under this Agreement by the FCC, the Commission, or the Tennessee state court, or federal court, as appropriate.

18.7 Taxes:

Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale tax

exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation by the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to timely provide such sale for resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party.

18.8 Assignment:

This Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties and shall continue to be binding upon all such entities regardless of any subsequent change in their ownership. Except as provided in this paragraph, neither Party may assign or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a non-affiliated party without the prior written consent of the other Party which consent will not be unreasonably withheld; provided that either Party may assign this Agreement to a corporate Affiliate or an entity under its common control or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void *ab initio*. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.

18.9 Non-Waiver:

Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege.

18.10 Notices:

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

<b>To: VZW</b>	<b>To: Bledsoe</b>
Verizon Wireless 1120 Sanctuary Parkway Suite 150 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Tel: 770-797-1224  Attn: Associate Director –Interconnection	Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. 388 Cumberland Avenue P.O. Box 609 Pikeville, TN 37367 Tel: 423-447-1230  Attn: Greg Anderson
With a copy to:  Verizon Wireless 1300 I Street, NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20005  Attn: Regulatory Counsel, Interconnection	

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

**18.11 Publicity and Use of Trademarks or Service Marks:**

Neither Party nor its subcontractors or agents shall use the other Party's trademarks, service marks, logos or other proprietary trade dress in any advertising, press releases, publicity matters or other promotional materials without such Party's prior written consent.

**18.12 Joint Work Product:**

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

**18.13 No Third Party Beneficiaries; Disclaimer of Agency:**

This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any third-party beneficiary rights hereunder. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party; nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express

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

18.14 No License:

No license under patents, copyrights, or any other intellectual property right (other than the limited license to use consistent with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Agreement) is granted by either Party, or shall be implied or arise by estoppel with respect to any transactions contemplated under this Agreement.

18.15 Technology Upgrades:

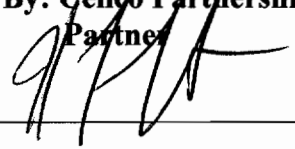
Nothing in this Agreement shall limit either Party's ability to upgrade its network through the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise, provided it is to industry standards, and that the Party initiating the upgrade shall provide the other Party written notice at least ninety (90) days prior to the incorporation of any such upgrade in its network which will materially impact the other Party's service. Each Party shall be solely responsible for the cost and effort of accommodating such changes in its own network.

18.16 Entire Agreement:

The terms contained in this Agreement and any Schedules, Exhibits, tariffs and other documents or instruments referred to herein are hereby incorporated into this Agreement by reference as if set forth fully herein, and constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written. Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications. This Agreement may only be modified by writing signed by an officer of each Party.

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

**Verizon Wireless Tennessee  
Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless  
By: Celloo Partnership, Its General  
Partner**

By: 

Name: Hans Leutenegger

Title: Area Vice President, Network

Date: 1/14/09

**Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative  
Corporation, Inc.**

By: 

Name: Gregory L. Anderson

Title: General Manager

Date: Dec. 23, 2008

**Attachment A**

**Reserved for Future Use**



**2009**

**Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

Disaster Recovery Plan

for

Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and Other  
Competitive Entities (CLECS)

## Disaster Recovery Procedures

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## General CLEC Disaster Recovery Procedures

### 1.0 Purpose

In the unlikely event of a disaster occurring that affects Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s (BTC) long-term ability to deliver traffic to a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier or other competitive entity (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 Single Point of Contact

When a problem is experienced, regardless of the severity, the BTC Network Management Center (NMC) will observe traffic anomalies and begin monitoring the situation. Controls will be appropriately applied to insure the sanity of BTC's network; and, in the event that a switch or facility node is lost, the NMC will attempt to circumvent the failure using available reroutes.

BTC's NMC will remain in control of the restoration efforts until the problem has been identified as being a long-term outage. At that time, the NMC will contact BTC's Emergency Control Center (ECC) and relinquish control of the recovery efforts. Even though the ECC may take charge of the situation, the NMC will continue to monitor the circumstances and restore traffic as soon as damaged network elements are revitalized.

**The telephone number for the BTC Network Management Center in Pikeville, Tennessee is 423-447-6815.**

### 3.0 Identifying the Problem

During the early stages of problem detection, the NMC will be able to tell which CLEC's are affected by the catastrophe. Further analysis and/or first hand observation will determine if the disaster has affected CLEC equipment only, BTC 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 NMC will initiate reroutes and/or transfers that are jointly agreed upon by the affected CLEC's Network Management Center and the BTC NMC. The type and percentage of controls used will depend upon available network capacity. Controls necessary to stabilize the situation will be invoked and the NMC will attempt to re-establish as much traffic as possible.

## General CLEC Disaster Recovery Procedures

For long-term outages, recovery efforts will be coordinated by the Emergency Control Center (ECC). Traffic controls will continue to be applied by the NMC until facilities are re-established. As equipment is made available for service, the ECC will instruct the NMC to begin removing the controls and allow traffic to resume.

### 3.1 Site Control

In the total loss of building use scenario, what likely exists will be a completely destroyed building and equipment. This total loss will contain many components, which could be dangerous. 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.

During this time, the majority owner of the building should be arranging for 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 & 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 buildings. 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 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.)

### General CLEC Disaster Recovery Procedures

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 or other possible options available.

#### 3.2 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:

1. Emergency engine fuel supply. Damage to the 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 the 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 listed 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.

#### 4.0 The Emergency Control Center (ECC)

The ECC is located in the BTC's Operation Building in Pikeville, Tennessee. During an emergency, the ECC staff will convene a group of pre-selected experts to inventory the damage and initiate corrective actions.

In the past, the ECC has been involved with restoration activities resulting from ice storms and floods. They have demonstrated their capabilities during these calamities as well as during outages caused by human error or equipment failures. This group has an excellent record of restoring service as quickly as possible.

## General CLEC Disaster Recovery Procedures

During a major disaster, the ECC may move emergency equipment to the affected location, direct recovery efforts of local personnel and coordinate service restoration activities with the CLECs. The ECC will attempt to restore service as quickly as possible using whatever means are available; leaving permanent solutions, such as the replacement of damaged buildings or equipment, for local personnel to administer.

Part of the ECC responsibility, after temporary equipment is in place, is to support the NMC efforts to return service to the CLECs. Once service has been restored, the ECC will return control of the network to normal operational organizations. Any long-term changes required after service is restored will be made in an orderly fashion and will be conducted as normal activity.

### 5.0 Recovery Procedures

The nature and severity of any disaster will influence the recovery procedures. One crucial factor in determining how BTC will proceed with restoration is whether or not BTC's equipment is incapacitated. Regardless of whose equipment is out of service, BTC 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.

#### 5.1 CLEC Outage

For a problem limited to one CLEC (or a building with multiple CLECs), BTC has several options available for restoring service quickly. For those CLECs that have agreements with other CLECs, BTC can immediately start directing traffic to a provisional CLEC for completion. This alternative is dependent upon BTC having concurrence from the affected CLECs.

Whether or not the affected CLECs have requested a traffic transfer to another CLEC will not impact BTC's resolve to re-establish traffic to the original destination as quickly as possible.

#### 5.2 BTC Outage

Because BTC's equipment has varying degrees of impact on the service provided to the CLECs, restoring service from damaged BTC equipment is different. The outage will probably impact a number of Carriers simultaneously. However, the ECC will be able to initiate immediate actions to correct the problem.

A disaster involving any of BTC'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 one location, but the incident could affect many carriers. If the CO is a Serving Wire Center (SWC), then traffic from the entire area to those Carriers served from that switch would also be impacted.

## General CLEC Disaster Recovery Procedures

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 NMC would be the first group to observe a problem involving BTC's equipment. Shortly after a disaster, the NMC 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. If the outage is caused by the destruction of equipment, then the ECC will assume control of the restoration.

### 5.2.1 Loss of a Central Office

When BTC loses a Central Office, the ECC will:

- a) place specialists and emergency equipment on notice;
- b) inventory the damaged 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 BTC in a nondiscriminatory manner in accordance with NSEP-TSP guidelines; and
- e) begin restoring service to CLECs and other customers.

### 5.2.2 Loss of a Central Office with Serving Wire Center Functions

The loss of a Central Office that serves as a Serving Wire Center (SWC) will be restored as described in section 5.2.1.

### 5.2.3 Loss of a Central Office with Tandem Functions

When BTC loses a Central Office building that serves as an Access Tandem and as a SWC, the ECC will

- a) place specialists and emergency equipment on notice;
- b) inventory the damaged 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 BTC in a nondiscriminatory manner in accordance with NSEP-TSP guidelines; and

## General CLEC Disaster Recovery Procedures

- e) redirect as much traffic as possible to the alternative 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.

### 5.2.4 Loss of a Facility Hub

In the event that BTC loses a facility hub, the recovery process is much the same as above. Once the NMC has observed the problem and administered the appropriate controls, the ECC will assume authority for the repairs. The recovery effort will include

- a) placing specialists and emergency equipment on notice;
- b) inventorying the damaged 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 BTC in a nondiscriminatory manner in accordance with NSEP-TSP guidelines; and
- e) restoring service to CLECs and other customers. If necessary, BTC 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.

### 5.3 Combined Outage (CLEC and BTC Equipment)

In some instances, a disaster may impact BTC's equipment as well as the CLEC's. This situation will be handled in much the same way as described in section 5.2.3. Since BTC and the CLECs will be utilizing temporary equipment, close coordination will be required.

## 6.0 T1 Identification Procedures

During the restoration of service after a disaster, BTC 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, BTC 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.



## General CLEC Disaster Recovery Procedures

### 7.0 Acronyms

BTC -	Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
CO -	Central Office (BTC)
DS3 -	Facility that carries 28 Tls (672 circuits)
ECC -	Emergency Control Center (BTC)
CLEC -	Competitive Local Exchange Carrier
NMC -	Network Management Center
SWC -	Serving Wire Center (BTC switch)
T1	Facility that carries 24 circuits