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April 27, 2011

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DOCKET NO. 11-00063

Hon. Mary W. Freeman, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
ATTN: Sharla Dillon - Dockets
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

**Filed electronically with the
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
This Date**

Re: *Approval of the Mutual Traffic Exchange Agreement Negotiated by Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and Aeneas Communications, LLC Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*

Dear Chairman Freeman:

Enclosed for filing are the original and 4 copies of the Petition for Approval of the Mutual Traffic Exchange Agreement Negotiated by Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Ben Lomand") and Aeneas Communications LLC ("Aeneas") pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Also enclosed is Ben Lomand's Disaster Recovery Plan. The enclosed Agreement was negotiated by Ben Lomand and Aeneas and is consistent with the standards for approval.

Ben Lomand is a telephone cooperative as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-29-102. As such, Ben Lomand is not a public utility regulated by the Authority. Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-101(6)(E) specifically excludes cooperative organizations, associations, or corporations from the definition of a "public utility" regulated by the Authority. Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-29-130 limits Authority jurisdiction over telephone cooperatives to boundary disputes and sales and purchases of operating telephone properties. None of these issues is present in this matter.

By filing this petition, Ben Lomand seeks, out of an abundance of caution and reading of the federal law, Authority approval of the agreement only as required by federal law. Section 252(e)(1) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires approval of mutual traffic exchange agreements by the state commission (in Tennessee, the Authority). While the Authority does not have jurisdiction over Ben Lomand, it appears that federal law requires approval of negotiated mutual traffic exchange agreements.

Hon. Sara Kyle
January 11, 2007
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Ben Lomand, by filing the petition in this docket, in no way waives its right to assert any defense available to it, including subject matter and personal jurisdiction in this docket or in any other docket.

Ben Lomand and Aeneas respectfully request that the Petition and Agreement be filed, reviewed, and considered for approval as expeditiously as possible.

My check in the amount of \$50.00 in payment of the filing fee is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. LaDon Baltimore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "H." and last name "Baltimore" clearly distinguishable.

H. LaDon Baltimore
*Counsel for Ben Lomand Telephone
Cooperative, Inc.*

LDB/skm
Enclosures

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Nashville, Tennessee

IN RE:	)	
	)	
APPROVAL OF THE MUTUAL	)	DOCKET NO. _____
TRAFFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT	)	
NEGOTIATED BY BEN LOMAND	)	
RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE,	)	
INC. AND AENEAS	)	
COMMUNICATIONS, LLC PURSUANT	)	
TO SECTIONS 251 AND 252 OF THE	)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996	)	

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF THE MUTUAL TRAFFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT
NEGOTIATED BY BEN LOMAND RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.
AND AENEAS COMMUNICATIONS, LLC PURSUANT TO
SECTIONS 251 AND 252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

Ben Lomand Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Ben Lomand") and Aeneas Communications, LLC ("Aeneas") respectfully file this request with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") for approval of the attached Mutual Traffic Exchange Agreement ("Agreement"). The Agreement was negotiated between Ben Lomand and Aeneas pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act"). The Agreement provides for the mutual exchange of EAS Traffic & ISP-Bound Traffic between their networks. Petitioners, therefore, respectfully request that the TRA act within the 90 days specified by the Act and approve the Agreement.

The Parties

1. Ben Lomand is a telephone cooperative as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. §65-29-102 and serves customers in the Tennessee counties of White, Warren, Van Buren, Grundy, and portions of Franklin, Coffee, and Bedford.

2. Aeneas is a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier authorized by the TRA to provide telecommunications services in the State of Tennessee.

The Agreement

3. Ben Lomand and Aeneas have successfully negotiated the agreement for the interconnection of their networks. A copy of the Agreement is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

4. Ben Lomand and Aeneas have entered into this Agreement pursuant to Sections 251(b)(5) and 252(a) of the Act.

5. Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Act, Ben Lomand and Aeneas are submitting their agreement to the TRA for its consideration and approval.

Compliance With the Act

6. First, as required under Section 252(e)(2)(A)(i) of the Act, the Agreement does not discriminate against any other telecommunications carrier. Other carriers are not bound by the Agreement and remain free to negotiate independently with Ben Lomand pursuant to Section 252 of the Act.

7. Second, the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, as required under Section 252(e)(2)(A)(ii) of the Act.

Approval of the Agreement

8. In accordance with Section 252(e) of the Act, the TRA is charged with approving or rejecting the Agreement within 90 days of its submission. The Act provides that the TRA may reject the Agreement only if it finds the Agreement or any portion thereof discriminates against a telecommunication carrier not a party to the

Agreement or if it finds that the implementation of the Agreement or any portion thereof is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

9. Petitioners aver the Agreement is consistent with the standards for approval.

10. Petitioners respectfully request that the TRA approve the Agreement negotiated between the parties without revision as expeditiously as possible consistent with the public interest.

This 27th day of April, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,



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(615) 254-3060
(615) 254-9835 FAX
*Counsel for Ben Lomand Rural Telephone
Cooperative, Inc.*

Certificate of Service

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this the 27th day of April, 2011, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been forwarded via first class U. S. Mail, hand delivery, overnight delivery, electronic transmission, or facsimile transmission to the following:

Jonathan V. Harlan
Aeneas Communications, LLC
P.O. Box 0277
Jackson, TN 38302-0277



H. LaDon Baltimore

MUTUAL TRAFFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

This Mutual Traffic Exchange Agreement ("Agreement") is effective as of the 6th day of October 2005 (the "Effective Date"), by and between the Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Ben Lomand"), a cooperative organized under the laws of the State of Tennessee, with offices at 311 North Chancery Street, McMinnville, Tn. 37111, and Aeneas Communications LLC ("Aeneas" or "CLEC"), a Tennessee corporation with offices at 300 N. Cumberland St., Jackson, TN 38302-0277

WHEREAS, Aeneas is a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier authorized by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to provide telecommunications services within its certified area in the State of Tennessee;

WHEREAS, Ben Lomand is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in the State of Tennessee;

WHEREAS, Aeneas and Ben Lomand do not provide service in each other's service area, but exchange telecommunications traffic between their networks and wish to establish an arrangement for the continued exchange of such traffic between their networks;

WHEREAS, The Parties acknowledge that Ben Lomand is a rural telephone company (as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153). By voluntarily entering into this Agreement, Ben Lomand, as a rural telephone company, is not waiving its rights under 47 U.S.C. § 251 (f) of the Act.

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, Aeneas and Ben Lomand hereby agree as follows:

1.0 DEFINITIONS

As used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

- 1.1 "Act", as used in this Agreement, means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. Section 151 *et seq.*), as amended, and as from time to time interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") or the Commission.
- 1.2 "Commission" means the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.
- 1.3 "Common Channel Signaling System No. 7" (*i.e.*, "SS7" or "CCS") is the common channel out-of-band signaling protocol developed by the Consultative Committee for International Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Ben Lomand and Aeneas currently utilize this out-of-band signaling protocol.

- 1.4 “DS1” is a digital signal rate of 1.544 Megabits per second (“Mbps”).
- 1.5 “DS3” is a digital signal rate of 44.736 Mbps.
- 1.6 “Extended Area Service Traffic” or “EAS Traffic” is defined for all purposes under this Agreement as telecommunications traffic that is originated by an end user customer of one Party, that is physically located in one Exchange, and terminates to an end user customer of the other Party, that is physically located in another Exchange, where the originating and terminating Exchanges have EAS between them. The “Local Service Areas” between which EAS Traffic may be exchanged pursuant to this Agreement is described in Appendix A to this Agreement. The terms Exchange and EAS are defined and specified in Ben Lomand’s General Subscriber Services Tariff.
- 1.7 “Interexchange Toll Traffic” is defined for all purposes under this Agreement as all telecommunications traffic that originates from Aeneas end user customers and terminates to Ben Lomand end user customers that is not included within the definition of EAS or ISP-Bound Traffic as defined in this Agreement. EAS Exchanges are listed in Appendix A to this Agreement. Interexchange Toll Traffic specifically excludes telecommunications traffic that is routed through IXC’s.
- 1.8 “Internet Protocol Connection” (“IPC”) is the connection between the IP-Enabled Service Provider and the customer where end user information is originated or terminated utilizing Internet protocol.
- 1.9 “ISP-Bound Traffic” is any Telecommunications Traffic that originates on one Party’s network and is delivered by the other Party to an Enhanced Service Provider (“ESP”) or Internet Service Provider (“ISP”) physically located within the originating end user customer’s EAS Exchange(s) as listed in Appendix A in order to enable the originating Party’s subscriber to communicate with destinations on the Internet.
- 1.10 “Jurisdictional Indicator Parameter” (“JIP”) is an existing six (6) digit (NPA-NXX) field in the SS7 message which designates the first point of switching.
- 1.11 “Party” means either Aeneas or Ben Lomand, and “Parties” means Aeneas and Ben Lomand.
- 1.12 “Point(s) of Interconnection” or “POI(s)” means the physical location(s) within Ben Lomand’s network, at which the Parties’ networks meet for the purpose of exchanging EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic.
- 1.13 “Rate Center” means the specific geographic point and corresponding geographic area or Exchange that is associated with one or more NPA/NXX codes that have been assigned to an incumbent LEC for its provision of telecommunications service.

- 1.14 "Telecommunications Carrier" means any provider of telecommunications services, except that such term does not include aggregators of telecommunications services. A telecommunications carrier shall be treated as a common carrier under the Telecommunications Act only to the extent that it is engaged in providing telecommunications services.
- 1.15 "Telecommunications Service" 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.
- 1.16 "VoIP" means any IP-enabled, real-time, multidirectional voice call, including, but not limited to, service that mimics traditional telephony. IP-Enabled Voice Traffic includes:
- (i) Voice traffic originating on Internet Protocol Connection ("IPC"), and which terminates on the PSTN; and
 - (ii) Voice traffic originated on the PSTN, and which terminates on IPC.

2.0 SCOPE

2.1 Ben Lomand and Aeneas agree to mutually exchange traffic between their respective networks and enter into an arrangement accordingly, whereby EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic, as defined in this Agreement, that is originated on Ben Lomand's or Aeneas's network by Ben Lomand's end user customers or Aeneas's end user customers respectively and is terminated to a Ben Lomand or Aeneas end user customer can be completed. In order to accomplish this in an appropriate manner, the Parties agree to the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement.

2.2 Both parties shall adhere to the North American Numbering Plan as described and understood in the telecommunications industry. Each Party shall route EAS and ISP-Bound Traffic from its network to the other Party's network over the dedicated transport facilities. Each Party shall be responsible for updating the LERG to reflect the NPA-NXX codes assigned to that Party.

2.3 Ben Lomand has no obligation to establish interconnection service arrangements to enable Aeneas to provide solely Information Services. Aeneas agrees that it is requesting and will use this arrangement for purposes of providing mainly Telecommunications Services and that any provision of Information Services by Aeneas will be incidental to Aeneas's provision of Telecommunications Services.

2.4 The FCC has several open dockets regarding the appropriate treatment and compensation for VoIP/IP-Enable services. 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 VoIP traffic. The Parties agree to abide by the rulings of the FCC in regard to compensation for VoIP traffic once effective and final (that is no longer subject to appeal). Pursuant to the Change in Law provisions in Section 12.7 of this

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Agreement, the Parties also agree to renegotiate this sub-section to comply with such FCC rulings.

2.4.1 The Parties acknowledge that under current network and service arrangements, some ISP Traffic may be switched and transported as if this ISP Traffic is EAS Traffic. The Parties will treat ISP Traffic under the following conditions until such time as a regulatory authority, court, or legislative body addresses the proper treatment of this traffic: the parties shall assume that they are exchanging with one another an equal amount of ISP traffic at an agreed upon termination rate; and the parties will utilize the EAS facilities to exchange the ISP traffic. The switching and transport of ISP traffic over EAS facilities by either Party, however, will not be deemed or construed by either party as either agreement or acknowledgment by the Parties that this arrangement is proper or required. In the event that the manner in which ISP Traffic is or may be treated is determined with finality by an appropriate regulatory or legal body, or in the event that any action or decision of an appropriate regulatory or legal body results in a determination that the interim treatment of ISP Traffic pursuant to this Subsection is unlawful or improper, the Parties will negotiate in good faith immediate modification and/or replacement language to this Agreement to effect new terms and conditions consistent with any such lawful action or determination. Any new or modified terms will be effective with the effective date of any such lawful action or determination regarding the treatment of ISP Traffic between the Parties.

2.4.2 As a result of the agreement set forth in Section 2.4.1 above, neither Party will owe a net due amount to the other Party for terminating ISP traffic including, but not limited to, compensation for switching, transport or termination of ISP traffic.

2.4.3 The Parties will cooperate fully in identifying ISPs and ISP traffic exchanged between the Parties.

2.4.4 In the event that the exchange of ISP Traffic results in a need for the deployment of additional facilities, the Party with which an ISP is connected ("ISP Serving Party") will be responsible for providing compensation to the other Party for the cost of additional trunking facilities provided by the other Party to originate calls to ISPs connected to the ISP Serving Party. Furthermore, if one Party decides to provide services solely to ISPs, then the Party with which the ISPs are connected ("ISP Serving Party") will provide compensation to the other Party for any and all trunking facilities that the other Party may install to originate traffic to the ISPs connected to the ISP Serving Party.

2.5 For the purposes of this Agreement, VoIP/IP-Enabled traffic will be treated similarly to other voice traffic covered by this Agreement, and the originating point of the VoIP/IP-Enabled traffic for the purpose of jurisdictionally rating traffic is the physical location of the calling party, *i.e.* the geographical location of the IPC. Signaling information associated with VoIP/IP-Enabled traffic must comply with Sections 3.3.3 and 3.3.4 of this Agreement.

3.0 SERVICE ARRANGEMENT

3.1 EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic:

3.1.1 The Parties agree to establish direct connection at a POI on the network of Ben Lomand when direct interconnection is requested by Aeneas for exchange of EAS Traffic. Alternatively, Aeneas may choose to connect indirectly to Ben Lomand's network, and route EAS Traffic via the facilities of BellSouth or another third party that performs a transit function on behalf of Aeneas. If Aeneas elects to utilize the facilities of BellSouth or any other carrier to transport traffic between Aeneas and the POI on the network of Ben Lomand, Aeneas shall be responsible for any applicable transiting charges from the third party carrier for the transport of traffic to or from the POI in the network of Ben Lomand.

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

3.1.3 Except as provided in Subsection 2.4, the Parties agree that the mutual provisions and relative obligations of the Parties pursuant to this Agreement represent good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which between the Parties is acknowledged, and that neither Party has any obligation to provide any monetary compensation to the other Party for the other Party's origination or termination of traffic within the scope of this Agreement. The specific compensation terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement are related to, dependent on, and limited to the provision of local exchange service to end users located in the specific geographic areas set forth in Appendix A, the exchange of EAS traffic between the Parties with respect to these geographic areas, and all other terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. The parties have each individually considered the scope of this traffic and concluded that the exchange of the traffic covered by this Agreement will be balanced. Accordingly, since traffic exchanged between both Parties is presumed to be balanced, both Parties agree that compensation for EAS Traffic and ISP-Bound Traffic shall be in the form of the mutual exchange of services provided by the other Party with no billing related to the exchange of such traffic issued by either Party. Consistent with the termination and modification provisions of this Agreement, each party reserves the right to negotiate a transport and termination rate in the event that the party subsequently determines that the exchange of traffic is not in balance. Moreover, should either Party, contrary to the provisions of this Agreement, route other traffic over the interconnection transport facilities, the other Party may bill appropriate access charges for that traffic. Notwithstanding the assessment and payment of any such access charges, the action of routing traffic that is not within the scope of this Agreement over the dedicated transport facilities shall constitute a default of this Agreement.

3.2 Interexchange Toll Traffic:

The Parties agree not to route Interexchange Toll Traffic over the dedicated transport facilities unless otherwise mutually agreed. All Interexchange Toll Traffic shall be routed in accordance with Telcordia Traffic Routing Administration instructions and shall be subject to the appropriate access charges.

3.3 Physical Connection:

3.3.1 Facility Sizing: The Parties will mutually agree on the appropriate sizing for transport facilities. The capacity of transport facilities provided by each Party will be based on mutual forecasts and sound engineering practice, as mutually agreed to by the Parties.

Aeneas will order trunks in the agreed upon quantities *via* an Access Service Request.

3.3.2 Interface Types: If the POI has an electrical interface, the interface will be DS1 or DS3 as mutually agreed by the Parties. When a DS3 interface is agreed to by the Parties, Ben Lomand will provide any multiplexing required for DS1 facilities or trunking at their end and Aeneas will provide any DS1 multiplexing required for facilities or trunking at their end.

3.3.3 Signaling: The Parties will connect their networks using SS7 signaling as defined in applicable industry standards including ISDN user part ("ISUP") for trunk signaling and transaction capabilities application part ("TCAP") for common channel signaling based features in the connection of their networks. The Calling Party Number ("CPN") and the Jurisdictional Indicator Parameter ("JIP") shall be available for at least 98% of the calls. Signaling information shall be shared between the Parties at no charge to either Party.

3.3.4 Signaling Parameters: Ben Lomand and Aeneas are required to provide each other the proper signaling information (*e.g.*, originating Calling Party Number and destination called party number, *etc.*), pursuant to 47 CFR 64.1601, to enable each Party to issue bills in a complete and timely fashion. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided including an accurate CPN as outlined in Section 3.3.5 below, JIP (at least one unique JIP per switch, per LATA, per state), Originating Line Information Parameter ("OLIP") on calls to 8XX telephone numbers, calling party category, Charge Number, *etc.* All privacy indicators will be honored. In addition, each party agrees that it is responsible for ensuring that all CCS signaling parameters are accurate and it shall not strip, alter, modify, add, delete, change, or incorrectly assign any CPN or JIP. CPN shall, at a minimum, include information that accurately reflects the physical location of the Customer that originated and/or dialed the call. If either party identifies improper, incorrect, or fraudulent use of local exchange service (including, but not limited to, PRI, ISDN, and/or Smart Trunks), or identifies stripped, altered, modified, added, deleted, changed, and/or incorrectly assigned CPN, the Parties agree to cooperate with one another to investigate and take corrective action. If either Party fails to provide CPN (valid originating information) and JIP on at least ninety-five percent (98%) of total traffic, traffic sent to the other Party without CPN and JIP (valid originating information) will be handled in the following manner. The remaining two percent (2%) of unidentified traffic will be treated as having the same jurisdictional ratio as the ninety-eight percent (98%) of identified traffic. If the unidentified traffic exceeds two percent (2%) of the total traffic, all the unidentified traffic shall be treated as intrastate toll and will be subject to intrastate access charges. The Party owning the switch will provide to the other Party, upon request, information to demonstrate that Party's portion of no-CPN or JIP traffic does not exceed two percent (2%) of the total traffic delivered. The Parties will coordinate and exchange data as necessary to determine the cause of the CPN or JIP failure and to assist in its correction.

3.3.5 An accurate Calling Party Number ("CPN") associated with the End User Customer originating the call must be provided. An accurate CPN is:

- 1) a CPN that is a dialable working telephone number, that when dialed, will reach the End User Customer to whom it is assigned, at that End User Customer's Location.

- 2) a CPN that has not been altered.

3) a CPN that is not a charge party number.

4) a CPN that follows the North American Numbering Plan Standards and can be identified in numbering databases and the LERG as an active number.

5) a CPN that is assigned to an active End User Customer.

6) a CPN that is associated with the Rate Center of the specific End User Customer Location.

3.3.6 The terminating Party (that is, the Party to whom Traffic is sent) shall be responsible for creating or obtaining any billing records needed in order to bill the originating Party for Interexchange Toll Traffic. Measurement of minutes of use shall be in actual conversation seconds. Each Party shall calculate the number of minutes of traffic it terminates from the other Party based on standard automatic message accounting records made within that Party's network.

3.3.7 Equipment Additions: Where additional equipment is required, such equipment will be obtained, engineered, and installed on the same basis and with the same intervals as any similar growth job for the Parties' internal customer demand.

3.4 Grade of Service:

Each Party will provision their network to provide designed blocking objective of a P.01.

3.5 Network Management:

3.5.1 Protective Controls: 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 or failure, or focused overload. Aeneas and Ben Lomand will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.

3.5.2 Mass Calling: Both Parties will cooperate and share pre-planning information regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes. The Parties agree that the promotion of mass calling services is not in the best interest of either Party. If one Party's network is burdened repeatedly more than the other Party's network, the Parties will meet and discuss the cause and impact of such calling and will agree on how to equitably share the costs and revenues associated with the calls and on methods for managing the call volume.

3.5.3 Network Harm: Neither Party will use any service related to or provided in this Agreement in any manner that interferes with third parties in the use of their service, prevents third parties from using their service, impairs the quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's Customers; causes electrical hazards to either Party's personnel, damage to either Party's equipment or malfunction of either Party's billing equipment (individually and collectively, "Network Harm"). If a Network Harm will occur or if a Party reasonably determines that a Network Harm is imminent, such Party will, where practicable, notify the other Party that temporary discontinuance or refusal of service may be required, provided, however,

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wherever prior notice is not practicable, such Party may temporarily discontinue or refuse service forthwith, if such action is reasonable under the circumstances. In case of such temporary discontinuance or refusal, such Party will:

3.5.3.1. Promptly notify the other Party of such temporary discontinuance or refusal;

3.5.3.2. Afford the other Party the opportunity to correct the situation which gave rise to such temporary discontinuance or refusal; and

3.5.3.3. Inform the other Party of its right to bring a complaint to the Commission, FCC, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

3.6 Rate Arbitrage

3.6.1 Each Party agrees that it will not knowingly provision any of its services or the services of a third party in a manner that permits the circumvention of applicable switched access charges by the other Party ("Rate Arbitrage") and/or the utilization of the physical connecting arrangements described in this Agreement to permit the delivery to the other Party of traffic not covered by this Agreement through the POI.

If any Rate Arbitrage and/or delivery of traffic not covered under this Agreement through the POI is identified, the Party causing such Rate Arbitrage also agrees to take all reasonable steps to terminate and/or reroute any service that is permitting any of that Party's End User Customers or any entity to conduct Rate Arbitrage or that permits the End User Customer or any entity to utilize the POI for the delivery or receipt of traffic not covered under this Agreement through the POI. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any Party is found to be in violation of this Section, until such time as the Rate Arbitrage or the exchange of traffic not covered by this Agreement is resolved, that Party shall pay either terminating or originating access charges based on the directionality of the traffic and pursuant to the applicable tariff of the other Party. Such violation of this Section shall include but not be limited to the termination of IP-Enabled traffic originated from Customers that are not physically located within the LATA, or any End User Customer or entity acting in the capacity of a mass traffic aggregator terminating traffic not covered by this Agreement resulting in Rate Arbitrage.

4.0 CHARGES, PAYMENT AND BILLING

4.1 To the extent a Party provides services for which compensation is due hereunder, such Party shall send an invoice, on a monthly basis, reflecting the calculation of charges due for services provided under this Agreement.

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

4.2.1 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 the Non-Paying Party shall pay the full disputed amount with the lesser of one and one half per cent (1 ½%) interest per month or the maximum interest amount allowed under State law from date originally due. In addition, the Billing Party may initiate a complaint proceeding with the appropriate regulatory or judicial entity, if unpaid undisputed amounts become more than 90 days past due, provided the Billing Party gives an additional 30 days notice and opportunity to cure the default.

4.2.2 Any undisputed amounts not paid when due shall accrue interest from the date such amounts were due at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Tennessee's applicable law.

4.2.3 Undisputed amounts shall be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice from the Billing Party. If the payment due date is a Saturday, Sunday or a designated bank holiday, payment shall be made the next business day.

- (a) Each Party shall comply immediately with its obligations as set forth within this Agreement;
- (b) Each Party shall promptly pay all amounts (including any late payment charges) owed under this Agreement; and
- (c) Each Party's indemnification obligations and confidentiality obligations shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

4.4 The Parties shall each perform traffic recording and identification functions necessary to provide the services contemplated hereunder. Each Party shall calculate minutes of use based on standard automatic message accounting records made within each Party's network. The records shall contain ANI or service provider information necessary to identify the individual Party.

5.0 AUDIT AND REVIEW

5.1 Each Party is responsible for the accuracy of its data as submitted to the other Party. Upon reasonable written notice, each Party or its authorized representative shall have the right to conduct annual reviews of the relevant data possessed by the other Party to give assurance of compliance with the provisions of this Agreement. These reviews will consist of any examinations and verification of data involving records, systems, procedures and other information related to the services performed by either Party related to charges or payments made in connection with this Agreement. Each Party's right to access information for verification purposes is limited to data not in excess of twelve (12) months in age. The Party requesting a verification review shall fully bear its own costs associated with conducting a review. The Party being reviewed will provide access to necessary and applicable information at no charge to the reviewing Party during normal business hours.

5.2 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.

6.0 NOTICE OF CHANGES

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

7.0 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

7.2 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its customers and to other Telecommunications Carriers.

7.3 Each Party is responsible for obtaining Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") listings of the Common Language Location Identifier ("CLLI") assigned to its switches.

7.4 Each Party shall be responsible for its own independent connections to the 911/E911 network.

8.0 TERM AND TERMINATION

8.1 The initial term of this Agreement shall be for a one-year term ("Term"), which shall commence on the Effective Date. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive six-month periods, unless, not less than one hundred twenty (120) 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 renegotiate a new agreement. In the event of such renegotiations, this Agreement shall remain in effect for a period of one (1) year or until such time that a new agreement becomes effective, whichever occurs first.

8.2 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 INDEMNIFICATION

9.1 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 gross 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 knowingly transmitted over the Indemnified Party's facilities arising from the Indemnifying Party's own communications or the communications of such Indemnifying Party's customers. Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither party shall be required to indemnify the other for such transmission unless the indemnifying party was previously notified by the indemnified party and failed or refused to block subsequent transmission.
- (3) claims for infringement of patents arising from combining the Indemnified Party's facilities or services with, or the using of the Indemnified Party's services or facilities in connection with, facilities of the Indemnifying Party.

Notwithstanding this indemnification provision or any other provision in the Agreement, neither Party, nor its parent, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, or employees, shall be liable to the other for Consequential Damages (as defined in Section 10.3).

9.2 The Indemnified Party will notify the Indemnifying Party promptly in writing of any claims, lawsuits, or demands by customers or other third parties for which the Indemnified Party alleges that the Indemnifying Party is responsible under this Section, and, if requested by the Indemnifying Party, will tender the defense of such claim, lawsuit or demand.

- (1) In the event the Indemnifying Party does not promptly assume or diligently pursue the defense of the tendered action, then the Indemnified Party may proceed to defend or settle said action and the Indemnifying Party shall hold harmless the Indemnified Party from any loss, cost liability, damage and expense.
- (2) In the event the Party otherwise entitled to indemnification from the other elects to decline such indemnification, then the Party making such an election may, at its own expense, assume defense and settlement of the claim, lawsuit or demand.
- (3) The Parties will cooperate in every reasonable manner with the defense or settlement of any claim, demand, or lawsuit.
- (4) Neither Party shall accept the terms of a settlement that involves or references the other Party in any matter without the other Party's approval.

10.0 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

10.1 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.

10.2 Except as otherwise provided in Section 9.0, 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.

10.3 Except as otherwise provided in Section 9.0, no Party shall 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.

11.0 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.

12.0 MISCELLANEOUS

12.1 Authorization

12.1.1 Ben Lomand Telephone Company., 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.

12.1.2 Aeneas Communications LLC is 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.

12.2 Compliance. Each Party shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations applicable to its performance under this Agreement.

12.3 Independent Contractors. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by

Aeneas or Ben Lomand in compliance with this Agreement, shall be deemed to create an agency or joint venture relationship between Aeneas and Ben Lomand, or any relationship other than that of provider and receiver of services. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by Aeneas or Ben Lomand in compliance with this Agreement, shall create a contractual, agency, or any other type of relationship or third party liability between Aeneas and Ben Lomand end users or others.

12.4 Force Majeure. Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, work stoppages, equipment failure, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions or any other circumstances beyond the reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of the Party affected. (collectively, a "Force Majeure Event"). If any Force Majeure 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 conditions caused by the Force Majeure Event. During the pendency of the conditions caused by 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.

12.5 Confidentiality

12.5.1 Any information such as specifications, drawings, sketches, business information, forecasts, models, samples, data, computer programs and other software and documentation of one Party (a Disclosing Party) that is furnished or made available or otherwise disclosed to the other Party or any of its employees, contractors, or agents (its "Representatives" and with a Party, a "Receiving Party") pursuant to this Agreement ("Proprietary Information") shall be deemed the property of the Disclosing Party. Proprietary Information, if written, shall be clearly and conspicuously marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary" or other similar notice, and, if oral or visual, shall be confirmed in writing as confidential by the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days after disclosure. Unless Proprietary Information was previously known by the Receiving Party free of any obligation to keep it confidential, or has been or is subsequently made public by an act not attributable to the Receiving Party, or is explicitly agreed in writing not to be regarded as confidential, such information: (i) shall be held in confidence by each Receiving Party; (ii) shall be disclosed to only those persons who have a need for it in connection with the provision of services required to fulfill this Agreement and shall be used by those persons only for such purposes; and (iii) may be used for other purposes only upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to in advance of such use in writing by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a Receiving Party shall be entitled to disclose or provide Proprietary Information as required by any governmental authority or applicable law, upon advice of counsel, only in accordance with Section 12.5.2 of this Agreement.

12.5.2 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.

12.5.3 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.

12.6 Governing Law. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction (primary or otherwise) of the FCC, the exclusive jurisdiction and remedy for all such claims shall be as provided for by the FCC and the Act. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction (primary or otherwise) of the Commission, the exclusive jurisdiction for all such claims shall be with the Commission, and the exclusive remedy for such claims shall be as provided for by such Commission. In all other respects, the domestic laws of the State of Tennessee without reference to conflict of law provisions shall govern this Agreement.

12.7 Change in Law. The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be subject to any and all applicable laws, rules, regulations or guidelines that subsequently may be adopted by any federal, state, or local government authority. Any modifications to this Agreement occasioned by such change shall be effected through good faith negotiations. If the parties are unable to agree to modifications incorporating such change of law within ninety (90) days of the request, either party may seek resolution from the Commission or the FCC, as appropriate.

12.8 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.

12.9 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. Each Party covenants that, if it sells or otherwise transfers to a third party, unless the Party which is not the subject of the sale or transfer reasonably determines that the legal structure of the transfer vitiates any such need, it will require as a condition of such transfer that the transferee agree to be bound by this Agreement with respect to services provided over the transferred facilities. Except as provided in this paragraph, neither Party may assign or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a third party without the prior written consent of the other Party which consent will not be unreasonably withheld; provided that either Party may assign this

Agreement to a corporate Affiliate or an entity under its common control or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void *ab initio*. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.

12.10 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

12.11 Notices.

12.11.1 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 express delivery service; (iii) mailed, certified mail, return receipt requested to the following addresses of the Parties:

To: Aeneas
Aeneas Communications, LLC
300 N. Cumberland St.
PO Box 0277
Jackson, TN 38302-0277

To: Ben Lomand
Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative
311 North Chancery Street
McMinnville, Tn. 37111

Attn: Jonathan V. Harlan, CEO

Telephone Number: 731-554-9200
FAX Number: 731-554-4440

Telephone Number:
FAX Number:

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

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

Before either party reports a trouble condition, it must first use its reasonable efforts to

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

12.12 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.

12.13 Joint Work Product. This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and/or 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.

12.14 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.

12.15 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.

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

12.17 Entire Agreement. The terms contained in this Agreement and any Schedules, Exhibits, tariffs and other documents or instruments referred to herein are hereby incorporated into this Agreement by reference as if set forth fully herein, and constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written. Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications. This Agreement may not be amended,

modified, or supplemented, nor may any obligations hereunder be waived by a Party, except by written instrument signed by both Parties.

13.0 REGULATORY

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.

14.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order or an injunction related to the purposes of this Agreement, or suit to compel compliance with this dispute resolution process, the Parties agree to use the following dispute resolution procedures with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.

14.1 Informal Resolution of Disputes. At the written request of a Party, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative, empowered to resolve such dispute, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The Parties intend that these negotiations be conducted by non-lawyer, business representatives. The location, format, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions shall be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and correspondence among the representatives for purposes of these negotiations shall be treated as Confidential Information developed for purposes of settlement, exempt from discovery, and shall not be admissible in any arbitration 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.

14.2 Formal Dispute Resolution If negotiations fail to produce an agreeable resolution within thirty (30) days, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanisms; provided, that upon mutual agreement of the Parties such disputes may also be submitted to binding arbitration. In the case of arbitration, each Party shall bear its own costs. The Parties shall equally split the fees of any mutually agreed upon arbitration procedure and the associated arbitrator.

14.3 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).

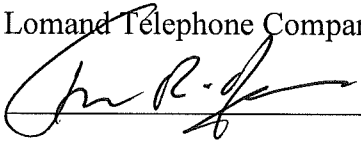
15.0 COUNTERPARTS

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

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

Ben Lomand Telephone Company, Inc.

By:



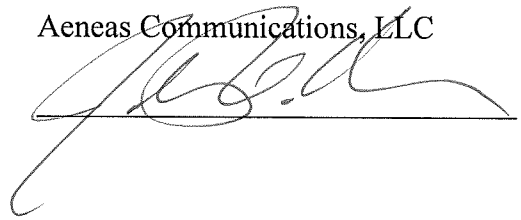
Printed: Trevor R. Bonnstetter, CEO

Title: *CEO*

Date: *2-4-11*

Aeneas Communications, LLC

By:



Printed: Jonathan V. Harlan

Title:

CEO

Date:

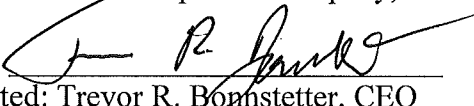
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Appendix

I. This Appendix specifies the Local Service Areas referenced in Sec. 1.6 of this Agreement within which the parties will exchange EAS traffic as follows:

1. The Local Service Areas are the geographic areas described in Ben Lomand's tariff within which a Ben Lomand Customer may place a call on a seven digit dialed basis and without a toll charge.
2. Ben Lomand will treat NPA-NXX's utilized by CLEC in parity with respect to the treatment afforded to other carriers with which Ben Lomand exchanges EAS traffic in accordance with its applicable tariff.
3. CLEC will provide Ben Lomand notice and associated LERG related information to identify those CLEC NPA-NXXs that it reasonably believes should be treated as numbers that may be called by a Ben Lomand customer on a seven digit dialed basis and without a toll charge.
4. The intent of this Agreement is to apply the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement to traffic between the parties that are similar to those terms and conditions applied to traffic between the exchanges of Ben Lomand and those operated by any other incumbent LEC within the Local Service Area as defined in 1 above.
5. With respect to traffic terminated by one party on the network of the other party that does not qualify as EAS Traffic as defined in Sec. 1.6 of this Agreement, the terminating party will charge the other party for termination in accordance with its established access charge tariffs except as follows. Consistent with the network architecture pursuant to which intracounty calling is provided in Tennessee, each party will participate in the TAR database. Each party's obligation to treat the termination of a call as intracounty non-toll is predicated upon the input of the originating customer's number and terminating customer's number into the TAR database in order to identify the call as qualifying for treatment as toll-free.
6. Designation of Points of Interconnection For the Delivery of EAS Traffic pursuant to this Agreement, Ben Lomand's service area boundary V = _____, H = _____.

Ben Lomand Telephone Company, Inc.

By: 

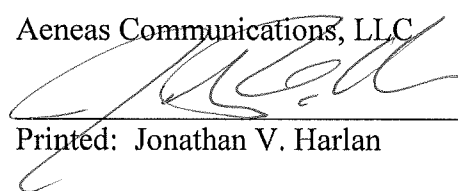
Printed: Trevor R. Bonstetter, CEO

Title: CEO

Date: 2-7-11

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Aeneas Communications, LLC

By: 

Printed: Jonathan V. Harlan

Title: CEO

Date: 1-18-2011

2011

Ben Lomand Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Disaster Recovery Planning

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 Ben Lomand Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s (BLTC) 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 Single Point of Contact

When a problem is experienced, regardless of the severity, the BLTC Network Management Center (NMC) will observe traffic anomalies and begin monitoring the situation. Controls will be appropriately applied to insure the sanity of BLTC'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.

BLTC'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 BLTC'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 BLTC Network Management Center in McMinnville is 1-800-974-7779.

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, BLTC 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 BLTC 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 martial 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 BLTC's Operation Building in McMinnville, 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 BLTC will proceed with restoration is whether or not BLTC's equipment is incapacitated. Regardless of who's equipment is out of service, BLTC 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), BLTC has several options available for restoring service quickly. For those CLECs that have agreements with other CLECs, BLTC can immediately start directing traffic to a provisional CLEC for completion. This alternative is dependent upon BLTC having concurrence from the affected CLECs.

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

5.2 BLTC Outage

Because BLTC's equipment has varying degrees of impact on the service provided to the CLECs, restoring service from damaged BLTC 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 BLTC'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 BLTC'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 BLTC 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 BLTC 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 BLTC 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 BLTC in a nondiscriminatory manner in accordance with NSEP-TSP guidelines; and

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- 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 BLTC 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 BLTC in a nondiscriminatory manner in accordance with NSEP-TSP guidelines; and
- e) restoring service to CLECs and other customers. If necessary, BLTC 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 BLTC Equipment)

In some instances, a disaster may impact BLTC'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 BLTC 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, BLTC 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, BLTC 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.

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7.0 Acronyms

BLTC	-	Ben Lomand Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
CO	-	Central Office (BLTC)
DS3	-	Facility that carries 28 T1s (672 circuits)
ECC	-	Emergency Control Center (BLTC)
CLEC	-	Competitive Local Exchange Carrier
NMC	-	Network Management Center
SWC	-	Serving Wire Center (BLTC switch)
T1	-	Facility that carries 24 circuits