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January 12, 2017

**VIA OVERNIGHT COURIER**

Hon. Herbert Hilliard, Chairman  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
502 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Approval of the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by AT&T  
Tennessee and North Central Communications*  
Docket No. 17-00004

Dear Chairman Hilliard:

Enclosed for filing in the referenced docket is the original *Petition for Approval of the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by AT&T Tennessee and North Central Communications* ("North Central"). As required, included with this filing is the \$50 filing fee made payable to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.

In accordance with Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the TRA is charged with approving or rejecting the negotiated Amendment between AT&T Tennessee and North Central within 90 days of its submission. The Act provides that the TRA may only reject such an amendment if it finds that the amendment or any portion of the amendment discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the amendment or the implementation of the amendment or any portion of the amendment is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. North Central and AT&T Tennessee aver that the Amendment is consistent with the standards for approval.

This Amendment implements the changes resulting from the FCC's Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, and USTelecom Forbearance Orders; modifies certain provisions related to Termination of Agreement After Initial Term Expiration; and modifies certain provisions related to Customer Information Services.

AT&T Tennessee respectfully requests that the Authority approve the Amendment to the Agreement.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard T. Howell/mr".

Richard T. Howell

RTH/mr  
Enclosures

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
Nashville, Tennessee

In re:           *Approval of the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by  
AT&T Tennessee and North Central Communications*

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

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT  
NEGOTIATED BETWEEN AT&T TENNESSEE AND NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS**

AT&T Tennessee ("AT&T") and North Central Communications ("North Central") file this request for approval of the Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement (the "Agreement") negotiated between the two companies pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"). In support of their request, North Central and AT&T state the following:

1.       North Central and AT&T have negotiated an agreement for interconnection of their networks, the unbundling of specific network elements offered by AT&T and the resale of AT&T's telecommunications services to North Central.

2.       The parties have recently negotiated an amendment to the Agreement. The amendment implements the changes resulting from the FCC's Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, and USTelecom Forbearance Orders; modifies certain provisions related to Termination of Agreement After Initial Term Expiration; and modifies certain provisions related to Customer Information Services. A copy of the Amendment is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

3.       Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, North Central and AT&T are submitting their Agreement to the TRA for its consideration and approval.

4. In accordance with Section 252(e) of the Act, the TRA is charged with approving or rejecting the negotiated Amendment to the Agreement between AT&T and North Central within 90 days of its submission. The Act provides that the TRA may only reject such an agreement if it finds that the agreement or any portion of the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement or the implementation of the agreement or any portion of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

5. North Central and AT&T aver that the Agreement is consistent with the standards for approval.

6. Pursuant to 47 USC Section 252(i) and 47 C.F.R. Section 51.809, AT&T shall make available the entire Interconnection Agreement approved pursuant to 47 USC Section 252.

North Central and AT&T respectfully request that the TRA approve the Amendment to the Agreement negotiated between the parties.

Respectfully submitted,

AT&T TENNESSEE

By: /s/ Richard T. Howell  
Richard T. Howell  
208 S Akard St, Room 2510.02  
Dallas, Texas 75202  
(214) 757-8099

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on January 12, 2017, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the following, via the method indicated:

- ☐ Hand
- ☐ Mail
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ Overnight
- ☒ Electronic

North Central Communications  
Johnny McClanahan  
CFO  
872 Highway 52 By-Pass East  
Lafayette, TN 37083  
[johnny.mcclanahan@nctc.com](mailto:johnny.mcclanahan@nctc.com)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Reed

**AMENDMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, LLC D/B/A AT&T TENNESSEE**

**AND**

**NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**



Signature: eSigned - Nancy J. WhiteName: eSigned - Nancy J. White  
(Print or Type)Title: President/CEO  
(Print or Type)Date: 12 Dec 2016

North Central Communications, Inc.

State	CLEC OCN
TENNESSEE	656H

Description	ACNA Code(s)
ACNA(s)	NHU

Signature: eSigned - William BockelmanName: eSigned - William Bockelman  
(Print or Type)Title: DIR-INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS  
(Print or Type)Date: 12 Dec 2016BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T  
TENNESSEE by AT&T Services, Inc., its authorized  
agent

**AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
AND  
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, LLC D/B/A AT&T TENNESSEE**

This amendment ("Amendment") amends the Interconnection Agreement by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T TENNESSEE ("AT&T") and North Central Communications, Inc. ("CLEC"). AT&T and CLEC are hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party."

**WHEREAS**, AT&T and CLEC are Parties to an Interconnection Agreement under Sections 251 and 252 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), approved September 29, 2015 and as subsequently amended ("Agreement"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties desire to amend the Agreement to implement the *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., Second Report and Order, FCC 15-71, Released June 22, 2015 ("FCC Lifeline Order"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties desire to amend the Agreement to implement the *Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Enforcement of Obsolete ILEC Legacy Regulations That Inhibit Deployment of Next-Generation Networks*, WC Docket No. 14-192, Released December 28, 2015 ("FCC US Telecom Forbearance Order"), and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the promises and mutual agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

1. The Amendment is composed of the foregoing recitals, the terms and conditions, contained within, all of which are hereby incorporated within this Amendment by this reference and constitute a part of this Amendment.
2. **Lifeline and Link Up Services**
  - 2.1. Delete the rates, terms and conditions related to Lifeline and Link Up service offerings from the Agreement. Lifeline and Link Up service will no longer be available under the Agreement beginning 180 days after Federal Register publication of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval.
3. **Forbearance**
  - 3.1. Delete the rates, terms and conditions related to the unbundling of a 64 kbps voice-grade channel to provide narrowband services over fiber where an incumbent LEC retires a copper loop it has overbuilt with a fiber-to-the-home or fiber-to-the-curb loop.
4. **Termination of Agreement After Initial Term Expiration**
  - 4.1. Sections 8.4.3 and 8.4.5 of the General Terms and Conditions of the Agreement is hereby amended and restated as follows:
    - 8.4.3 If at any time within one hundred and eighty (180) days or any time thereafter of the expiration of the Term, if either Party serves "Notice of Expiration" or Notice of Termination (if served after Expiration), CLEC shall have ten (10) calendar days to provide AT&T-21STATE written confirmation to the Notice of Expiration indicating if CLEC wishes to pursue a successor agreement with AT&T-21STATE or terminate its Agreement. CLEC shall identify the action to be taken in each of the applicable state(s). If CLEC wishes to pursue a successor agreement with AT&T-21STATE, CLEC shall attach to its written confirmation or Notice of Expiration, a written request to commence negotiations with AT&T-21STATE under Sections 251/252 of the Act and identify each of the state(s) to which the successor agreement will apply. Upon receipt of CLEC's Section 252(a)(1) request, the Parties shall commence good faith negotiations for a successor agreement.
    - 8.4.5 Either on or following the expiration date of this Agreement, if the Parties have not entered into a new agreement or are not in Active Negotiations as described in Section 8.4.4 above, the

Agreement shall remain in full force and effect on a month to month basis unless both Parties mutually agree to terminate, or either Party provides "Notice of Termination" as provided for in Section 8.4.

5. **Customer Information Services (CIS)**

5.1. With the exception of 5.2 herein, delete all rates, terms and conditions pertaining to Customer Information Services, including but not limited to services related to Operator Services (OS), Directory Assistance (DA), Directory Assistance Listings (DAL), Inward Assistance Operator Services (INW) and White Pages (e.g., Busy Line Verification (BLV), Busy Line Verification/Interrupt (BLV/I), etc.) from the Agreement.

5.2. **Add the following provisions to the Attachment or Appendix for Resale**

CIS.1 For Resale service, AT&T will provide Customer Information Services to CLEC's End Users where technically feasible and/or available to AT&T retail End Users. Dialing, response, and sound quality will be provided in parity to AT&T retail End Users.

CIS.2 CLEC is solely responsible for the payment of all charges for all services furnished under this Attachment, including but not limited to calls originated or accepted at CLEC's location and its End Users' service locations.

CIS.3 Interexchange carrier traffic (e.g., sent-paid, information services and alternate operator services messages) received by AT&T for billing to Resale End User accounts will be returned as unbillable and will not be passed to CLEC for billing. An unbillable code will be returned with those messages to the carrier indicating that the messages were generated by a Resale account and will not be billed by AT&T.

CIS.4 AT&T shall not be responsible for the manner in which utilization of Resale Services or the associated charges are allocated to End Users or others by CLEC. Applicable rates and charges for services provided to CLEC under this Attachment will be billed directly to CLEC and shall be the responsibility of CLEC.

CIS.5 Charges billed to CLEC for all services provided under this Attachment shall be paid by CLEC regardless of CLEC's ability or inability to collect from its End Users for such services.

CIS.6 If CLEC does not wish to be responsible for payment of charges for calling card, collect, or third number billed calls (Alternately Billed Traffic or "ABT") or toll and information services (for example, 900 calls), CLEC must order the appropriate available blocking for lines provided under this Attachment and pay any applicable charges. It is the responsibility of CLEC to order the appropriate toll restriction or blocking on lines resold to End Users. CLEC acknowledges that blocking is not available for certain types of calls, including without limitation 800, 888, 411 and Directory Assistance Express Call Completion. Depending on the origination point, for example, calls originating from correctional facilities, some calls may bypass blocking systems. CLEC acknowledges all such limitations and accepts all responsibility for any charges associated with calls for which blocking is not available and any charges associated with calls that bypass blocking systems.

6. There shall be no retroactive application of any provision of this Amendment prior to the Effective Date of an adopting CLEC's agreement.

7. This Amendment shall be deemed to revise the terms and provisions of the Agreement only to the extent necessary to give effect to the terms and provisions of this Amendment. In the event of a conflict between the terms and provisions of this Amendment and the terms and provisions of the Agreement (including all incorporated or accompanying Appendices, Addenda, and Exhibits to the Agreement), this Amendment shall govern, provided, however, that the fact that a term or provision appears in this Amendment but not in the Agreement, or in the Agreement but not in this Amendment, shall not be interpreted as, or deemed grounds for finding, a conflict for purposes of this Amendment.

8. In entering into this Amendment, neither Party waives, and each Party expressly reserves, any rights, remedies or arguments it may have at law or under the intervening law or regulatory change provisions in the underlying Agreement (including intervening law rights asserted by either Party via written notice predating this Amendment) with respect to any orders, decisions, legislation or proceedings and any remands thereof, which the Parties have not yet fully incorporated into this Agreement or which may be the subject of further review.
9. This Amendment shall not modify or extend the Effective Date or Term of the underlying Agreement, but rather, shall be coterminous with such Agreement.
10. EXCEPT AS MODIFIED HEREIN, ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE UNDERLYING AGREEMENT SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED AND IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.
11. Signatures by all Parties to this Amendment are required to effectuate this Amendment. This Amendment may be executed in counterparts. Each counterpart shall be considered an original and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.
12. For Tennessee: This Amendment shall be filed with and is subject to approval by the applicable state Commission and shall become effective ten (10) days following approval by such Commission.