INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

ALLTEL NEBRASKA, INC.

&

LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

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GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This Agreement ("Agreement") is between, Level 3 Communications, LLC ("Level 3") a Delaware corporation, ALLTEL Nebraska, Inc. ("ALLTEL") a Nebraska corporation (collectively the "Parties").

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"), the Parties wish to establish terms for the provision of certain services and Ancillary Functions as designated in the Attachments hereto for the purpose of determining the rates, terms, and conditions for the interconnection of the Parties' Telecommunications Networks within the State of Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants of this Agreement, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Agreement, in accordance with §251 of the Act, sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which ALLTEL may provide (a) services for interconnection, and (b) Ancillary Functions to Level 3. The specific services, functions, or facilities that ALLTEL agrees to provide are those specifically identified in appendixes attached to this Agreement, and executed simultaneously with this general terms and conditions. Further this Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and prices under which Level 3 will provide services to ALLTEL, where applicable.

1.2 This Agreement includes and incorporates herein the Attachments of this Agreement, and all accompanying Appendices, Addenda and Exhibits.

1.3 The Parties acknowledge and agree that by entering into and performing in accordance with this Agreement, the Parties have not waived or relinquished any applicable exemptions that are provided by or available under the Act, including, but not limited to, those described in §251(f).

1.4 The Parties acknowledge and agree that by entering into this agreement, Level 3 has not waived its rights under 252(i) of the Act.

2.0 Effective Date

2.1 The effective date of this Agreement will be the first business day following receipt of final approval of this Agreement by the relevant state Commission or, where approval by such state Commission is not required, the date that both Parties have executed the Agreement.

3.0 Intervening Law

3.1 This Agreement is entered into as a result of private negotiations between the Parties, acting pursuant to the Act and/or other applicable state laws or Commission rulings. If the actions of state or federal legislative bodies, courts, or regulatory agencies of competent jurisdiction invalidate, modify, or stay the enforcement of any provisions of this Agreement, the affected provision will be invalidated, modified, or stayed as required by action of the legislative body, court, or regulatory agency. In such event, the Parties shall in good faith attempt to arrive at an agreement respecting the modifications to the Agreement required. If negotiations fail, disputes between the Parties concerning the interpretation of the actions required or provisions affected by

such governmental actions may be resolved pursuant to any process available to the Parties under law, provided that the Parties may mutually agree to use the dispute resolution process provided for in this Agreement.

4.0 Term of Agreement

4.1 The Parties agree to the provisions of this Agreement for an initial term commencing on the Effective Date of this Agreement and ending on June 30, 2004, and thereafter, unless terminated or modified pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, this Agreement shall continue in force and effect unless and until terminated or modified as provided herein.

4.2 Either Party may request for this Agreement to be renegotiated upon the expiration of the initial term or upon any termination of this Agreement. The Party desiring renegotiation shall delineate the items desired to be negotiated in a written notice to the other Party. Not later than thirty (30) days from receipt of said notice, the receiving Party will notify the sending Party in writing of additional items desired to be negotiated, if any. Not later than forty-five (45) days from the receipt of initial request for renegotiations, the Parties will commence negotiation, which shall be conducted in good faith. Except in cases in which this Agreement has been terminated for Default pursuant to §4.4 or has been terminated for any reason not prohibited by law pursuant to §4.3, the provisions of this Agreement shall remain in force during the negotiation and up to the time that a successor agreement is executed by the parties and, to the extent necessary, approved by the relevant state commission.

4.3 After completion of the initial term, this Agreement may be terminated by either Party for any reason not prohibited by law upon ninety (90) days written notice to the other Party. By mutual agreement, the Parties may amend this Agreement in writing to modify its terms.

4.4 In the event of Default, as defined in this §4.4, the non-defaulting Party may terminate this Agreement provided that the non-defaulting Party so advises the defaulting Party in writing ("Default Notice") of the event of the alleged Default and the defaulting Party does not cure the alleged Default with sixty (60) after receipt of the Default Notice thereof. Default is defined as:

4.4.1 Either Party's insolvency or initiation of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings by or against the Party;

4.4.2 A final non-appealable decision under §9.0, Dispute Resolution that a Party has materially breached any of the material terms or conditions hereof, including the failure to make any undisputed payment when due; or

4.4.3 A Party has notified the other Party in writing of the other Party's material breach of any of the material terms hereof, and the default remains uncured for sixty (60) days from receipt of such notice, and neither Party has commenced Formal Dispute Resolution as prescribed in §9.4 of this Agreement by the end of the cure period; provided, however, that if the alleged material breach involves a material interruption to, or a material degradation of, the E911 services provided under this Agreement, the cure period shall be five (5) days from receipt of such notice.

4.5 Upon expiration or termination of this Agreement, except in the case of termination for Default under §4.4 or termination for any reason not prohibited by law under § 4.3 above, if either Party desires uninterrupted service under this Agreement during negotiations of a new agreement, the

requesting Party shall provide the other Party written notification appropriate under the Act. Upon receipt of such notification, the same terms, conditions, and prices will continue in effect, on a month-to-month basis as were in effect at the end of the latest term, modification or renewal, so long as negotiations are continuing in good-faith and then until resolution pursuant to this Section and the Act. If the Parties are actually in arbitration or mediation before the appropriate Commission, commercial arbitrator or FCC prior to such expiration or termination of this Agreement, this Agreement will continue in effect only until the issuance of an order, whether a final non-appealable order or not, by the Commission, commercial arbitrator or FCC resolving the issues set forth in such arbitration or mediation request.

4.5 The Parties agree to resolve any impasse in any such renegotiation by submission of the disputed matters to the Public Utility Commission of ("PUC") for arbitration. Should the PUC decline jurisdiction, either Party may petition the FCC under the Act or resort to a commercial provider of arbitration services.

5.0 Assignment

5.1 Neither Party may assign, subcontract, or otherwise transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement except under such terms and conditions as are mutually acceptable to the other Party and with such Party's prior written consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, a Party may assign, subcontract or otherwise transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement upon notice to the other Party, but without needing the other Party's consent, to a subsidiary, affiliate, or parent company, including any firm, corporation, or entity which the Party controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, or has a majority interest in, or to any entity which succeeds to all or substantially all of its assets whether by merger, sale, or otherwise. Nothing in this Section is intended to impair the right of either Party to utilize subcontractors.

5.2 Each Party will notify the other in writing not less than sixty (60) days in advance of anticipated assignment.

6.0 Confidential and Proprietary Information

6.1 For the purposes of this Agreement, confidential information means confidential or proprietary technical, customer, end user, network, or business information disclosed by one Party (the "Discloser") to the other Party (the "Recipient"), which is disclosed by one Party to the other in connection with this Agreement, during negotiations or the term of this Agreement ("Confidential Information"). Such Confidential Information shall automatically be deemed proprietary to the Discloser and subject to this §6.0, unless otherwise confirmed in writing by the Discloser. All other information which is indicated and marked, as Confidential Information at the time of disclosure shall also be treated as Confidential Information under §6.0 of this Agreement. The Recipient agrees: (i) to use Confidential Information only for the purpose of performing under this Agreement; (ii) to hold it in confidence and disclose it to no one other than its employees or agents having a need to know for the purpose of performing under this Agreement; and (iii) to safeguard it from unauthorized use or disclosure using at least the same degree of care with which the Recipient safeguards its own Confidential Information. If the Recipient wishes to disclose the Discloser's Confidential Information to a third-party agent or consultant, such disclosure must be agreed to in writing by the Discloser, and the agent or consultant must have executed a written agreement of nondisclosure and nonuse comparable to the terms of this Section.

6.2 The Recipient may make copies of Confidential Information only as reasonably necessary to perform its obligations under this Agreement. All such copies will be subject to the same restrictions and protections as the original and will bear the same copyright and proprietary rights notices as are contained on the original.

6.3 The Recipient agrees to return all Confidential Information to the Discloser in tangible form received from the Discloser, including any copies made by the Recipient within thirty (30) days after a written request is delivered to the Recipient, or to destroy all such Confidential Information if directed to do so by Discloser except for Confidential Information that the Recipient reasonably requires to perform its obligations under this Agreement. If either Party loses or makes an unauthorized disclosure of the other Party's Confidential Information, it will notify such other Party immediately and use reasonable efforts to retrieve the lost or wrongfully disclosed information.

6.4 The Recipient will have no obligation to safeguard Confidential Information: (i) which was in the possession of the Recipient free of restriction prior to its receipt from the Discloser; (ii) after it becomes publicly known or available through no breach of this Agreement by the Recipient; (iii) after it is rightfully acquired by the Recipient free of restrictions on its disclosure; or (iv) after it is independently developed by personnel of the Recipient to whom the Discloser's Confidential Information had not been previously disclosed. In addition, either Party will have the right to disclose Confidential Information to any mediator, arbitrator, state or federal regulatory body, or a court in the conduct of any mediation, arbitration or approval of this Agreement, as long as, in the absence of an applicable protective order, the Discloser has been previously notified by the Recipient in time sufficient for the Recipient to undertake lawful measures to avoid disclosing such information and for Discloser to have reasonable time to seek or negotiate a protective order before or with any applicable mediator, arbitrator, state or regulatory body or a court.

6.5 The Parties recognize that an individual end user may simultaneously seek to become or be a customer of both Parties. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit the ability of either Party to use customer specific information lawfully obtained from end users or sources other than the Discloser, subject to applicable rules governing use of Customer Propriety Network Information (CPNI).

6.6 Each Party's obligations to safeguard Confidential Information disclosed prior to expiration or termination of this Agreement will survive such expiration or termination.

6.7 Except as otherwise expressly provided elsewhere in this Agreement, no license is hereby granted with respect to any patent, trademark, or copyright, nor is any such license implied solely by virtue of the disclosure of any Confidential Information.

6.8 Each Party agrees that the Discloser may be irreparably injured by a disclosure in breach of this Agreement by the Recipient or its representatives and the Discloser will be entitled to seek equitable relief, including injunctive relief and specific performance, in the event of any breach or threatened breach of the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement. Such remedies will not be deemed to be the exclusive remedies for a breach of this Agreement, but will be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity.

7.0 Liability and Indemnification

7.1 **Limitation of Liabilities**

With respect to any claim or suit for damages arising out of mistakes, omissions, defects in transmission, interruptions, failures, delays or errors occurring in the course of furnishing any service hereunder, the liability of the Party furnishing the affected service, if any, shall be limited to actual damages incurred and shall not exceed the greater of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars ($250,000) or the aggregate annual charges imposed on the Party receiving the affected service for the period of that particular service during which such mistakes, omissions, defects in transmission, interruptions, failures, delays or errors occurs and continues; provided, however, that any such mistakes, omissions, defects in transmission, interruptions, failures, delays, or errors which are caused by the gross negligence or willful, wrongful act or omission of the Party receiving the affected service or which arise from the use of said receiving Party's facilities or equipment shall not result in the imposition of any liability whatsoever upon the other Party furnishing service.

7.2 **No Consequential Damages**

EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY WILL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DAMAGES FOR HARM TO BUSINESS, LOST REVENUES, LOST SAVINGS, OR LOST PROFITS SUFFERED BY SUCH OTHER PARTY), REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF ACTION, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, WARRANTY, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION NEGLIGENCE OF ANY KIND WHETHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PARTIES KNEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH DAMAGES COULD RESULT. EACH PARTY HEREBY RELEASES THE OTHER PARTY (AND SUCH OTHER PARTY'S SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AND AGENTS) FROM ANY SUCH CLAIM. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION WILL LIMIT EITHER PARTY'S LIABILITY TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR: (i) WILLFUL OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT (INCLUDING GROSS NEGLIGENCE); OR (ii) BODILY INJURY, DEATH, OR DAMAGE TO TANGIBLE REAL OR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.

7.3 **Obligation to Indemnify**

7.3.1 Each Party shall be indemnified and held harmless by the other Party against claims, losses, suits, demands, damages, costs, expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees ("Claims"), asserted, suffered, or made by third parties arising from: (i) any act or omission of the indemnifying Party in connection with its performance or non-performance under his Agreement; and (ii) provision of the indemnifying Party's services or equipment, including, but not limited to, claims arising from the provision of the indemnifying Party's services to its end users (e.g., claims for interruption of service, quality of service or billing disputes) unless such act or omission was caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the indemnified Party. Each Party shall also be indemnified and held harmless by the other Party against claims and damages of persons for services furnished by the indemnifying Party or by any of its subcontractors, under worker's compensation laws or similar statutes.

7.3.2 Each Party, as an Indemnifying Party agrees to release, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the other Party from any claims, demands or suits that asserts any infringement

or invasion of privacy or confidentiality of any person or persons caused or claimed to be caused, directly or indirectly, by the Indemnifying Party's employees and equipment associated with the provision of any service herein. This provision includes but is not limited to suits arising from unauthorized disclosure of the end user's name, address or telephone number.

7.3.3 ALLTEL makes no warranties, express or implied, concerning Level 3's (or any third party's) rights with respect to intellectual property (including without limitation, patent, copyright and trade secret rights) or contract rights associated with Level 3's interconnection with ALLTEL's network use or receipt of ALLTEL services.

7.3.4 When the lines or services of other companies and carriers are used in establishing connections to and/or from points not reached by a Party's lines, neither Party shall be liable for any act or omission of the other companies or carriers.

7.4 **Obligation to Defend; Notice; Cooperation**

Whenever a claim arises for indemnification under this Section (the "Claim"), the relevant Indemnitee, as appropriate, will promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. Failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party will not relieve the Indemnifying Party of any liability that the Indemnifying Party might have, except to the extent that such failure prejudices the Indemnifying Party's ability to defend such Claim. The Indemnifying Party will have the right to defend against such Claim in which event the Indemnifying Party will give written notice to the Indemnitee of acceptance of the defense of such Claim and the identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party. Except as set forth below, such notice to the relevant Indemnitee will give the Indemnifying Party full authority to defend, adjust, compromise, or settle such Claim with respect to which such notice has been given, except to the extent that any compromise or settlement might prejudice the Intellectual Property Rights of the relevant Indemnities. The Indemnifying Party will consult with the relevant Indemnitee prior to any compromise or settlement that would affect the Intellectual Property Rights or other rights of any Indemnitee, and the relevant Indemnitee will have the right to refuse such compromise or settlement and, at such Indemnitee's sole cost, to take over such defense of such Claim. Provided, however, that in such event the Indemnifying Party will not be responsible for, nor will it be obligated to indemnify the relevant Indemnitee against any damages, costs, expenses, or liabilities, including without limitation, attorneys' fees, in excess of such refused compromise or settlement. With respect to any defense accepted by the Indemnifying Party, the relevant Indemnitee will be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in such defense if the Claim requests equitable relief or other relief that could affect the rights of the Indemnitee and also will be entitled to employ separate counsel for such defense at such Indemnitee's expense. In the event the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified Claim as provided above, the relevant Indemnitee will have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, and the Indemnifying Party shall be liable for all costs associated with Indemnitee's defense of such Claim including court costs, and any settlement or damages awarded the third party. Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such Claim.

8.0 Payment of Rates and Late Payment Charges

8.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided elsewhere in this Agreement, the Parties will pay all undisputed rates and charges due and owing under this Agreement within thirty (30) days of the

invoice date in immediately available funds. The Parties represent and covenant to each other that all invoices will be promptly processed and mailed in accordance with the Parties' regular procedures and billing systems.

8.1.1 If the payment due date falls on a Sunday or on a Holiday which is observed on a Monday, the payment due date shall be the first non-Holiday following such Sunday or Holiday. If the payment due date falls on a Saturday or on a Holiday which is observed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, the payment due date shall be the last non-Holiday preceding such Saturday or Holiday. If payment is not received by the payment due date, a late penalty, as set forth in §8.3 below, will be assessed.

8.2 If the amount billed is received by the billing Party after the payment due date or if any portion of the payment is received by the billing Party in funds which are not immediately available to the billing Party, then a late payment charge will apply to the unpaid balance.

8.3 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement interest on overdue invoices will apply at the lesser of the highest interest rate (in decimal value) which may be levied by law for commercial transactions, compounded daily and applied for each month or portion thereof that an outstanding balance remains, or shall not exceed 0.000325 compounded daily and applied for each month or portion thereof that an outstanding balance remains.

9.0 Dispute Resolution

9.1 Notice of Disputes

Notice of a valid dispute, whether billing or contractual in nature, must in writing specifically document the total dollar amount of the dispute and provide a detailed description of the underlying dispute (the "Dispute Notice").

9.1.1 Billing Disputes

A Party must submit reasonable and valid billing disputes to the other Party within twenty-four (24) months from the due date. The Parties will endeavor to resolve all Billing Disputes within ninety (90) days from the receipt of the Dispute Notice. Examples of reasonable and valid billing disputes ("Billing Dispute") include, but are not limited to:

9.1.1.1 incorrect rate applied;

9.1.1.2 error in quantity (i.e. minutes or quantity of circuits or quantity of billable elements incorrect);

9.1.1.3 service did/does not exist;

9.1.1.4 invalid factors;

9.1.1.5 incorrect customer being billed;

9.1.1.6 invalid purchase order number (PON);

9.1.1.7 untimely billing.

9.1.2 The Parties agree that those portions of bills that are not disputed shall be paid when due, that interest applies to all overdue invoices as set forth in §8.1 to this Agreement, and that no other late payment fee or charge applies to overdue invoices. The Parties further agree that if any billing dispute is resolved in favor of the billing Party the billing Party will receive interest applied to the disputed amount as set forth in §8.0 of this Agreement.

9.1.3 **All Other Disputes**

All other disputes (i.e., contractual disputes) shall be valid only if reasonable within the scope of this Agreement, and the applicable Statute of Limitations shall govern such disputes.

9.2 **Alternative to Litigation**

9.2.1 The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order, an injunction, or similar relief from the PUC 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 procedure with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.

9.2.2 Each Party agrees to promptly notify the other Party in writing of a dispute and may in the Dispute Notice invoke the informal dispute resolution process described in §9.4. The Parties will endeavor to resolve the dispute within thirty (30) days after the date of the Dispute Notice.

9.3 **Informal Resolution of Disputes**

In the case of any dispute and upon receipt of the Dispute Notice each Party will appoint a duly authorized representative knowledgeable in telecommunications matters, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising under this Agreement. The location, form, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions will be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may, but are not obligated to, utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and the correspondence among the representatives for purposes of settlement are exempt from discovery and production and will not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of both Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and, if otherwise admissible, may be admitted in evidence in the arbitration or lawsuit. Unless otherwise provided herein, or upon the Parties' agreement, either Party may invoke formal dispute resolution procedures including arbitration or other procedures as appropriate, not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the Dispute Notice, provided the Party invoking the formal dispute resolution process has in good faith negotiated, or attempted to negotiate, with the other Party.

9.4 **Formal Dispute Resolution**

9.4.1 The Parties agree that all unresolved disputes arising under this Agreement pursuant to the Act, including without limitation, whether the dispute in question is subject to

arbitration, may be submitted to PUC for resolution in accordance with its dispute resolution process and the outcome of such process will be binding on the Parties, subject to any right to appeal a decision reached by the PUC under applicable law. If the PUC refuses jurisdiction, the Parties agree that neither party waives its rights to have disputes, arising under the Act or otherwise, addressed by the FCC or in a court of competent jurisdiction, as appropriate.

9.4.2 If the PUC does not have or declines to accept jurisdiction over any dispute arising under this Agreement, the dispute may be submitted to binding arbitration by a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. A Party may demand such arbitration in accordance with the procedures set out in those rules. Discovery shall be controlled by the arbitrator and shall be permitted to the extent set out in this section or upon approval or order of the arbitrator. Each Party may submit in writing to a Party, and that Party shall so respond, to a maximum of any combination of thirty-five (35) (none of which may have subparts) of the following: interrogatories; demands to produce documents; requests for admission. Additional discovery may be permitted upon mutual agreement of the Parties. The arbitration hearing shall be commenced within ninety (90) days of the demand for arbitration. The arbitration shall be held in Nebraska, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties or required by the FCC. The arbitrator shall control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties shall submit written briefs five days before the hearing. The arbitrator shall rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) days after the close of hearings. The arbitrator has no authority to order punitive or consequential damages. The times specified in this section may be extended upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

9.4.3 Each Party shall bear its own costs of these procedures unless the Nebraska PUC or other presiding arbitrator, if any, rules otherwise. A Party seeking discovery shall reimburse the responding Party for the costs of production of documents (including search time and reproduction costs).

9.5 **Conflicts**

9.5.1 The Parties agree that the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in this Agreement are not intended to conflict with applicable requirements of the Act or the state commission with regard to procedures for the resolution of disputes arising out of this Agreement and do not preclude a Party from seeking relief under applicable rules or procedures of the PUC.

10.0 Reserved For Future Use

11.0 Notices

11.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notice, consents, approvals, modifications, or other communications to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and sent postage prepaid by registered mail return receipt requested. Notice may also be effected by

personal delivery or by overnight courier. All notices will be effective upon receipt, and should be directed to the following:

If to Level 3:

Michelle Krezek
Director-Interconnection Services
Level 3 Communications, LLC.
1025 Eldorado Boulevard
Broomfield, CO 80021
(Tel): 720-888-6330
(Fax): 720-888-5271

Copy to:

Russell M. Blau
Tamar E. Finn
Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP
Counsel for Level 3 Communications, LLC
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20007-5116
(Tel): 202-424-7500
(Fax): 202-295-8478

If to ALLTEL:

Staff Manager – Access & Interconnection Services
One Allied Drive, Building IV
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

Copy to:

V.P. Legal
Access & Interconnection Services
One Allied Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

11.2 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated representative and/or address, telephone contact number or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving seven (7) days prior written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section.

12.0 Taxes

12.1 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 (hereinafter "Tax") 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. Purchasing Party may be exempted from certain taxes if purchasing Party provides proper documentation, e.g., reseller

certificate, from the appropriate taxing authority. Failure to timely provide said resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party until such time as the purchasing Party presents a valid certification.

12.2 With respect to any purchase of services, facilities or other arrangements, if any Tax is required or permitted by applicable law to be collected from the purchasing Party by the providing Party, then: (i) the providing Party shall bill the purchasing Party for such Tax; (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the providing Party; and (iii) the providing Party shall remit such collected Tax to the applicable taxing authority, except as otherwise indicated below.

12.3 The Parties agree that each Party shall generally be responsible for collecting and remitting to the appropriate city, any franchise fees or taxes for use of city rights of way, in accordance with the terms of that Party's franchise agreement. In the event a city attempts to require both Parties to pay franchise fees on the same revenues with respect to resold services or unbundled network elements then the Parties agree to cooperate in opposing such double taxation.

12.4 With respect to any purchase hereunder of services, facilities or arrangements that are resold to a third party, if any Tax is imposed by applicable law on the end user in connection with any such purchase, then: (i) the purchasing Party shall be required to impose and/or collect such Tax from the end user; and (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the applicable taxing authority. The purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party on an after-tax basis for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such tax to such authority.

12.5 If the providing Party fails to collect any Tax as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party: (i) the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax; and (ii) the providing Party shall be liable for any penalty and interest assessed with respect to such uncollected Tax by such authority. However, if the purchasing Party fails to pay any taxes properly billed, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party will be solely responsible for payment of the taxes, penalty and interest.

12.6 If the purchasing Party fails to impose and/or collect any Tax from end users as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest and penalty assessed thereon with respect to the uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority. With respect to any Tax that the purchasing Party has agreed to pay or impose on and/or collect from end users, the purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party on an after-tax basis for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such Tax to such authority.

12.7 All notices, affidavits, exemption certificates or other communications required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other Party under this §12.0, shall be made in writing and sent postage prepaid by registered mail return receipt requested. All notices shall be effective upon receipt. All notices sent pursuant to this Section shall be directed to the following:

To ALLTEL:

Director State and Local Taxes
ALLTEL Service Corporation

One Allied Drive
P.O. Box 2177
Little Rock, AR 72203

Copy to:

Staff Manager - Interconnection Services
ALLTEL Service Corporation
One Allied Drive
P.O. Box 2177
Little Rock, AR 72203

If to Level 3:

Manager – Finance/Network Cost
Level 3 Communications, LLC.
1025 Eldorado Boulevard
Broomfield, CO 80021
(Tel): 720/888-2876

Copy to:

Russell M. Blau
Tamar E. Finn
Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP
Counsel for Level 3 Communications, LLC
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20007-5116
(Tel): 202-424-7500
(Fax): 202-295-8478

12.8 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated representative and/or address, telephone contact number or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving seven (7) days prior written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section.

13.0 Force Majeure

13.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, neither Party shall be liable for delays or failures in performance resulting from acts or occurrences beyond the reasonable control of such Party, regardless of whether such delays or failures in performance were foreseen or foreseeable as of the date of this Agreement, including, without limitation: fire, explosion, power failure, acts of God, war, revolution, civil commotion, or acts of public enemies; or labor unrest, including, without limitation strikes, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts or delays caused by the other Party or by other service or equipment vendors; or any other similar circumstances beyond the Party's reasonable control. In such event, the Party affected shall, upon giving prompt notice to the other Party, be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such interference (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-for-day basis to the extent such Party's obligations relate to the performance so interfered with). The affected Party shall use its reasonable commercial efforts to avoid or remove the cause

of nonperformance and both Parties shall proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

14.0 Publicity

14.1 The Parties agree not to use in any advertising or sales promotion, press releases or other publicity matters, any endorsements, direct or indirect quotes or pictures implying endorsement by the other Party or any of its employees without such Party's prior written approval. The Parties will submit to each other for written approval, prior to publication, all such publicity endorsement matters that mention or display the other's name and/or marks or contain language from which a connection to said name and/or marks may be inferred or implied.

14.2 Neither Party will offer any services using the trademarks, service marks, trade names, brand names, logos, insignia, symbols or decorative designs of the other Party or its affiliates without the other Party's written authorization.

15.0 Network Maintenance and Management

15.1 The Parties will work cooperatively to implement this Agreement. The Parties will exchange appropriate information (e.g., maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the Government, etc.) to achieve this desired reliability, subject to the confidentiality provisions herein.

15.2 Each Party will provide a 24-hour contact number for Network Traffic Management issues to the other's surveillance management center. A facsimile (FAX) number must also be provided to facilitate event notifications for planned mass calling events. Additionally, both Parties agree that they will work cooperatively to ensure that all such events will attempt to be conducted in such a manner as to avoid disruption or loss of service to other end users.

15.2.1 **24 Hour Network Management Contact:**

For ALLTEL:

Contact Number:	330-650-7900
Facsimile Number:	330-650-7918

For Level 3:

Contact Number:	877–877-7788
Facsimile Number:	720-888-5228

15.3 Neither Party will use any service provided under this Agreement in a manner that impairs the quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's subscribers. Either Party will provide the other Party notice of said impairment at the earliest practicable time.

16.0 Law Enforcement and Civil Process

16.1 Intercept Devices

Local and federal law enforcement agencies periodically request information or assistance from local telephone service providers. When either Party receives a request associated with a customer of the other Party, the receiving Party will refer such request to the appropriate Party, unless the request directs the receiving Party to attach a pen register, trap-and-trace or form of intercept on the Party's own facilities, in which case that Party will comply with any valid requirement, to the extent the receiving Party is able to do so; if such compliance requires the assistance of the other Party such assistance will be provided.

16.2 Subpoenas

If a Party receives a subpoena for information concerning an end user the Party knows to be an end user of the other Party, the receiving Party will refer the subpoena to the requesting entity with an indication that the other Party is the responsible company.

16.3 Law Enforcement Emergencies

If a Party receives a request from a law enforcement agency to implement at its switch a temporary number change, temporary disconnect, or one-way denial of outbound calls for an end user of the other Party, the receiving Party will comply so long as it is a valid emergency request. Neither Party will be held liable for any claims or damages arising from compliance with such requests, and the Party serving the end user agrees to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless against any and all such claims.

16.4 The Parties will provide five (5) day a week 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. installation and information retrieval pertaining to lawful, manual traps and information retrieval on customer invoked CLASS services pertaining to non-emergency calls such as annoyance calls. The Parties will provide assistance twenty-four (24) hours per day for situations involving immediate threat of life or at the request of law enforcement officials. The Parties will provide a twenty-four (24) hour contact number to administer this process.

17.0 Changes in Subscriber Carrier Selection

17.1 Each Party will abide by applicable state or federal laws and regulations in obtaining end user authorization prior to changing end user's Local Service Provider to itself and in assuming responsibility for any applicable charges as specified in §258 (b) of the Act. Either Party shall make authorization available to the other Party upon reasonable requests and at no charge.

17.2 Only an end user can initiate a challenge to a change in its local exchange service provider. If an end user notifies either Party that the end user requests local exchange service, the Party receiving such request shall be free to immediately provide service to such end user.

17.3 When an end user changes or withdraws authorization, each Party will release customer specific facilities in accordance with the end user customers' direction or the end user's authorized agent.

17.4 Subject to applicable rules, orders, and decisions, ALLTEL will provide Level 3 with access to Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) for ALLTEL end users upon Level 3

providing ALLTEL a signed Letter of Agency (LOA), based on Level 3's representation that subscriber has authorized Level 3 to obtain such CPNI.

17.4.1 The Parties agree that they will conform to FCC and/or state regulations regarding the provisioning of CPNI between the Parties, and regarding the use of that information by the requesting Party.

17.4.2 The requesting Party will document end user permission obtained to receive CPNI, whether or not the end user has agreed to change Local Service Providers. For end users changing service from one Party to the other, specific end user LOAs may be requested by the Party receiving CPNI requests to investigate possible slamming incidents, and for other reasons agreed to by the Parties. The receiving Party may also request documentation of an LOA if CPNI is requested and a subsequent service order for the change of local service is not received.

17.4.3 CPNI requests will be processed in accordance with the following:

17.4.3.1 For customers with 1-25 lines: two (2) business days.

17.4.3.2 For customers with 26+ lines: three (3) business days.

17.4.4 If the Parties do not agree that Level 3 requested CPNI for a specific end user, or that ALLTEL has erred in not accepting proof of an LOA, the Parties may immediately request dispute resolution in accordance with General Terms & Conditions, §9.0, Dispute Resolution.

18.0 Amendments or Waivers

18.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, no amendment or waiver of any provision of this Agreement and no consent to any default under this Agreement will be effective unless the same is in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each Party. In addition, no course of dealing or failure of a Party strictly to enforce any term, right or condition of this Agreement will be construed as a waiver of such term, right, or condition. By entering into this Agreement, the Parties do not waive any right granted to them pursuant to the Act; and, the Parties enter into this Agreement without prejudice to any positions they have taken previously, or may take in the future in any legislative, regulatory, other public forum, contract negotiation, bona fide request, or arbitration addressing any matters, including matters related to the types of arrangements prescribed by this Agreement.

19.0 Authority

19.1 Each person whose signature appears below represents and warrants that they have the authority to bind the Party on whose behalf they executed this Agreement.

20.0 Binding Effect

20.1 This Agreement will be binding on and inure to the benefit of the respective successors and permitted assigns of the Parties.

21.0 Consent

21.1 Where consent, approval, or mutual agreement is required of a Party, it will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

22.0 Expenses

22.1 Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, each Party will be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the subject of this Agreement.

23.0 Headings

23.1 The headings in this Agreement are inserted for convenience and identification only and will not be considered in the interpretation of this Agreement.

24.0 Relationship of Parties

24.1 This Agreement will not establish, be interpreted as establishing, or be used by either Party to establish or to represent their relationship as any form of agency, partnership or joint venture. Neither Party will have any authority to bind the other Party, nor to act as an agent for the other Party unless written authority, separate from this Agreement, is provided. Nothing in the Agreement will be construed as providing for the sharing of profits or losses arising out of the efforts of either or both of the Parties. Nothing herein will be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party.

25.0 Conflict of Interest

25.1 The Parties represent that no employee or agent of either Party has been or will be employed, retained, paid a fee, or otherwise received or will receive any personal compensation or consideration from the other Party, or any of the other Party's employees or agents in connection with the arranging or negotiation of this Agreement or associated documents.

26.0 Multiple Counterparts

26.1 This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original but all of which will together constitute but one, and the same document.

27.0 Third Party Beneficiaries

27.1 Except as may be specifically set forth in this Agreement, this Agreement does not provide and will not be construed to provide third parties with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other privilege.

28.0 Regulatory Approval

28.1 Each Party agrees to cooperate with the other Party and with any regulatory agency to obtain regulatory approval. During the term of this Agreement, each Party agrees to continue to cooperate with the other Party and any regulatory agency so that the benefits of this Agreement may be achieved.

28.2 Upon execution of this Agreement, it shall be filed with the appropriate state regulatory agency pursuant to the requirements of §252 of the Act. If the state regulatory agency imposes any filing(s) or public interest notice(s) regarding the filing or approval of the Agreement, Level 3 shall assume sole responsibility in making such filings or notices unless otherwise required or directed by the PUC. All costs associated with the aforementioned filing(s) or notice(s) shall borne by Level 3.

29.0 Trademarks and Trade Names

29.1 Each Party warrants that, to the best of its knowledge, the services provided under this Agreement do not or will not violate or infringe upon any patent, copyright, trademark, or trade secret rights of any other persons.

29.2 Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, nothing in this Agreement will grant, suggest, or imply any authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, or trade names of the other Party for any purpose whatsoever, absent written consent of the other Party.

30.0 Regulatory Authority

30.1 Each Party will be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all Federal Communications Commission, state regulatory commission, franchise authority and other regulatory approvals that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. Each Party will reasonably cooperate with the other Party in obtaining and maintaining any required approvals necessary for fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement.

31.0 Reserved for Future Use

32.0 Verification Reviews

32.1 Subject to each Party's reasonable security requirements and except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, either Party may audit the other Party's relevant books, records and other documents pertaining to services provided under this Agreement once in each Contract Year solely for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of the other Party's billing and invoicing. Such audit will take place at a time and place agreed on by the Parties no later than sixty (60) days after notice thereof.

32.2 The review will consist of an examination and verification of data involving records, systems, procedures and other information related to the services performed by either Party as related to settlement charges or payments made in connection with this Agreement as determined by either Party to be reasonably required. Each Party shall maintain reasonable records for a minimum of twenty-four (24) months and provide the other Party with reasonable access to such information as is necessary to determine amounts receivable or payable under this Agreement.

32.3 Adjustments, credits, or payments shall be made and any corrective action shall commence within thirty (30) days from the Requesting Party's receipt of the final audit report to compensate for any errors or omissions which are disclosed by such audit and are agreed to by the Parties. Audit findings may be applied retroactively for no more than twenty-four (24) months from the date the audit began. Interest shall not exceed one and one-half (1.5%) of the highest interest rate allowable by law for commercial transactions shall be assessed and shall be computed by compounding daily from the time of the overcharge, not to exceed twenty-four (24) months from the date the audit began to the day of payment or credit. Any disputes concerning audit results will be resolved pursuant to the Dispute Resolution procedures described in §9.0 of this Agreement.

32.4 Each Party will cooperate fully in any such audit, providing reasonable access to any and all appropriate employees and books, records and other documents reasonably necessary to assess the accuracy of the Party's bills.

32.5 Verification reviews will be limited in frequency to once per twelve (12) month period, with provision for staged reviews, as mutually agreed, so that all subject matters are not required to be reviewed at the same time. Verification reviews will be scheduled subject to the reasonable requirements and limitations of the audited Party and will be conducted in a manner that will not interfere with the audited Party's business operations.

32.6 The Party requesting a verification review shall fully bear its costs associated with conducting a review. The Party being reviewed will provide access to required information, as outlined in this Section, at no charge to the reviewing Party. Should the reviewing Party request information or assistance beyond that reasonably required to conduct such a review, the Party being reviewed may, at its option, decline to comply with such request or may bill actual costs incurred in complying subsequent to the concurrence of the reviewing Party.

32.7 For purposes of conducting an audit pursuant to this Agreement, the Parties may employ other persons or firms for this purpose (so long as said Parties are bound by this Agreement). The Parties will bear their own reasonable expenses associated with the audit.

32.8 Information obtained or received by either Party in conducting the audit described in §32.0 shall be subject to the confidentiality provisions of §6.0 of this Agreement, whether or not marked as confidential.

33.0 Complete Terms

33.1 This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding and supersedes prior agreements between the Parties relating to the subject matter contained herein and merges all prior discussions between them, and neither Party shall be bound by any definition, condition, provision, representation, warranty, covenant or promise other than as expressly stated in this Agreement or as is

contemporaneously or subsequently set forth in writing and executed by a duly authorized officer or representative of the Party to be bound thereby.

34.0 Cooperation on Preventing End User Fraud

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

34.2 In cases of suspected fraudulent activity by an end user, at a minimum, the cooperation referenced in the above paragraph will include providing to the other Party, upon request, information concerning end users who terminate services to that Party without paying all outstanding charges. The Party seeking such information is responsible for securing the end user's permission to obtain such information.

35.0 Notice of Network Changes

35.1 The Parties agree to provide each other with reasonable notice consistent with applicable FCC rules of changes in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of services using the other Party's facilities or networks, as well as other changes that affect the interoperability of those respective facilities and networks. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit either Party's ability to upgrade or modify its network, including without limitation, the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise so long as such upgrades are not inconsistent with the Parties' obligations under this Agreement.

36.0 Reserved for Future Use

37.0 Responsibility of Each Party

37.1 Each Party is an independent contractor, and has and hereby retains the right to exercise full control of and supervision over its own performance of its obligations under this Agreement and retains full control over the employment, direction, compensation and discharge of its employees assisting in the performance of such obligations. Each Party will be solely responsible for all matters relating to payment of such employees, including compliance with social security taxes, withholding taxes and all other regulations governing such matters. Each Party will be solely responsible for proper handling, storage, transport and disposal at its own expense of all: (i) substances or materials that it or its contractors or agents bring to, create or assume control over at Work Locations; or (ii) waste resulting therefrom or otherwise generated in connection with its or its contractors' or agents' activities at the Work Locations. Subject to the limitations on liability and except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Party will be responsible for: (i) its own acts and performance of all obligations imposed by applicable law in connection with its activities, legal status and property, real or personal; and (ii) the acts of its own affiliates, employees, agents and contractors during the performance of the Party's obligations hereunder.

38.0 Reserved for Future Use

39.0 Governmental Compliance

39.1 Each Party will comply at its own expense with all applicable law that relates to: (i) its obligations under or activities in connection with this Agreement; of (ii) its activities undertaken at, in connection with or relating to Work Locations. The Parties agree to indemnify, defend, (at the other Party's request) and save harmless the other Party, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from: (i) its failure or the failure of its contractors or agents to so comply; or (ii) any activity, duty or status of it or its contractors or agents that triggers any legal obligation to investigate or remediate environmental contamination.

40.0 Responsibility for Environmental Contamination

40.1 Level 3 will in no event be liable to ALLTEL for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard that Level 3 did not introduce to the affected work location. ALLTEL will indemnify, defend (at Level 3's request) and hold harmless Level 3, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from: (i) any Environmental Hazard that ALLTEL, its contractors or agents introduce to the Work Locations; or (ii) the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard for which ALLTEL is responsible under applicable law.

40.2 ALLTEL will in no event be liable to Level 3 for any costs whatsoever resulting from the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard that ALLTEL did not introduce to the affected work location. Level 3 will indemnify, defend (at ALLTEL's request) and hold harmless ALLTEL, each of its officers, directors and employees from and against any losses, damages, claims, demands, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that arise out of or result from i) any Environmental Hazard that Level 3, its contractors or agents introduce to the Work Locations or ii) the presence or release of any Environmental Hazard for which Level 3 is responsible under applicable law.

41.0 Subcontracting

41.1 If a Party through a subcontractor performs any obligation under this Agreement, such Party will remain fully responsible for the performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, including any obligations either Party performs through subcontractors, and each Party will be solely responsible for payments due the Party's subcontractors. No subcontractor will be deemed a third party beneficiary for any purposes under this Agreement. Any subcontractor who gains access to Confidential Information covered by this Agreement will be required by the subcontracting Party to protect such Confidential Information to the same extent the subcontracting Party is required to protect the same under the terms of this Agreement.

42.0 Referenced Documents

42.1 Whenever any provision of this Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, or any other document specifically incorporated into this Agreement, it will be deemed to be a reference to the most recent version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) of each document that is in effect, and will include the most recent version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) of each document incorporated by reference in such a technical reference, technical publication, or publication of industry standards. However, if such reference material is substantially altered in a more recent version to significantly change the obligations of either Party as of the Effective Date of this Agreement and the Parties are not in agreement concerning such modifications, the Parties agree to negotiate in good faith to determine how such changes will impact performance of the Parties under this Agreement, if at all. Until such time as the Parties agree, the provisions of the last accepted and unchallenged version will remain in force.

43.0 Severability

43.1 If any term, condition or provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability will not invalidate the entire Agreement, unless such construction would be unreasonable. The Agreement will be construed as if it did not contain the invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions, and the rights and obligations of each Party will be construed and enforced accordingly; provided, however, that in the event such invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions are essential elements of this Agreement and substantially impair the rights or obligations of either Party, the Parties will promptly negotiate a replacement provision or provisions. If impasse is reached, the Parties will resolve said impasse under §9.0, Dispute Resolution.

44.0 Survival of Obligations

44.1 Any liabilities or obligations of a Party for acts or omissions prior to the cancellation or termination of this Agreement, any obligation of a Party under the provisions regarding indemnification, Confidential Information, limitations on liability, and any other provisions of this Agreement which, by their terms, are contemplated to survive (or to be performed after) termination of this Agreement, will survive cancellation or termination thereof.

45.0 Governing Law

45.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with federal law, the Act, and the FCC's Rules and Regulations, except insofar as state law may control any aspect of this Agreement, in which case the domestic laws of Nebraska, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles, shall govern. The Parties submit to personal jurisdiction in Nebraska.

46.0 Other Obligations of Level 3

4.1 For the purposes of establishing service and providing efficient and consolidated billing to Level 3, Level 3 is required to provide ALLTEL its authorized state Operating Company Number (OCN).

47.0 Customer Inquiries

47.1 Neither party will contact the other Party's customers concerning matters under this Agreement, which are the subject of a current dispute. Each Party will refer all questions regarding the other Party's services or products directly to the other Party at a telephone number specified by that Party.

47.2 Each Party will ensure that all of their representatives who receive inquiries regarding the other Party's services or products: (i) provide the numbers described in §47.1; and (ii) do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party or its services or products.

48.0 Disclaimer of Warranties

48.1 **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, 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.**

49.0 Reserved for Future Use

50.0 Reserved for Future Use

51.0 Reserved for Future Use

52.0 Reserved for Future Use

53.0 Reserved for Future Use

54.0 Definitions and Acronyms

54.1 Definitions

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Attachment to be executed as of this 22nd day of **April**, 2002.

Level 3 Communications, LLC

Kevin T. Paul
Print Name

Sign Name: Date

VP SS Deployment
Position/Title
Level 3 Communications, LLC

ALTLEL Nebraska, Inc.

Alfred Busbee
Print Name

Alfred W. Busbee C-3 4/22/02
Sign Name: Date

Staff Manager – Access & Interconnection Services
Position/Title
ALTLEL Nebraska, Inc.

ATTACHMENT 1: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 2: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 3: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE.

ATTACHMENT 4: NETWORK INTERCONNECTION ARCHITECTURE

1.0 Scope

1.1 This Attachment describes the arrangements that may be utilized by the Parties for interconnection of their respective networks for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service and Exchange Access Service pursuant to §251 of the Act. The Parties will utilize the interconnection method(s) specified below, unless otherwise mutually agreed to in writing by the Parties, in each ALLTEL exchange area or each ALLTEL tandem serving area (if applicable) where the parties interconnect their networks.

1.2 Each Party is responsible for the appropriate sizing, operation, and maintenance of the facilities utilized for transmission and routing to the IP. Neither Party will bill the other for transmission and routing for facilities on its side of the IP.

1.3 An Interconnection Point ("IP"), as defined in §2.0 of this Attachment will be designated for each interconnection arrangement established pursuant to this Agreement.

1.4 This Attachment and Appendix A are based on the network configuration and capabilities of the Parties as they exist on the date of this Agreement. If those factors change (i.e., ALLTEL deploys a new tandem office or becomes an E-911 provider), the Parties will negotiate in good faith to modify this Agreement in order to accommodate the changes and to provide the services made possible by such additional capabilities to Level 3.

2.0 Interconnection Methods

There are two methods of interconnection available; direct interconnection and indirect interconnection.

2.1 Direct interconnection provides for network interconnection between the Parties through, including but not limited to, one or more of the following methods: 1) lease arrangements, and 2) jointly provisioned facilities arrangements. The Parties shall designate an IP(s) within each Exchange area or tandem serving area (if applicable) to which each Party must bring its originating traffic for termination. Each Party will bear the full cost of bringing its originating traffic to the IP for termination

2.1.1 Where direct interconnection is requested in an ALLTEL Exchange or tandem serving area, Level 3 may lease from ALLTEL facilities between ALLTEL's end office or wire center location in that Exchange or tandem serving area and Level 3's point of presence (e.g., end office or wire center), subject to the applicable ALLTEL interstate, intrastate or local, special access or private line tariffs under which Level 3 orders service. Where ALLTEL does not have tandem capability (as defined in the LERG) in a serving area to connect multiple end offices, unless mutually agreed to in writing by the Parties, the IP will be located at the Alltel end office or wire center location. Where ALLTEL has tandem capability (as defined in the LERG) in a serving area to connect multiple end offices, Level 3 shall establish an IP in each ALLTEL mandatory local calling area. In lieu of leasing facilities from ALLTEL, Level 3 may lease third-party facilities or provision its own facilities to interconnect with ALLTEL at the IP(s) required under this Section.

2.1.2 Jointly provisioned service arrangements provide for direct interconnection of the Parties networks at a point other than the ALLTEL and Level 3 end office or wire center and

involve each Party's partial provisioning of network facilities to interconnect the Parties networks (e.g., midspan fiber meet). Should the parities interconnect via jointly provisioned facilities, the Parties will mutually agree to an IP provided, however, that the IP will be within ALLTEL's exchange boundary where direct interconnection is requested.

2.1.2.1 In situations where a mid-span fiber meet or third party "meet point" is utilized by the Parties pursuant to Section 2.1.2 of this Agreement, each Party is responsible for bringing its originating traffic to such "meet point" for termination by the other Party and will bear the full cost associated with transporting traffic to/from its side of the "meet point."

2.1.3 Collocation interconnection provides for direct interconnection of the Parties' networks through network interfaces established at Level 3's collocation location within ALLTEL's end office or wire center. Level 3 must have a collocation arrangement established pursuant to this Agreement or other authorized means to utilize this form of direct interconnection. If Level 3 establishes collocation at an end office or wire center, the IP will be at Level 3 collocation facility.

2.2 Indirect interconnection provides for network interconnection between the Parties through a third party tandem provider performing a transit function. Under this arrangement, the originating Party has the responsibility to pay any applicable transit or tandem switched access fees and common transport associated with traffic exchanged between the Parties.

3.0 **Signaling Requirements**

3.1 Signaling protocol. The Parties will interconnect their networks using SS7 signaling where technically feasible and available as defined in FR 905 Bellcore Standards including ISDN user part ("ISUP") for trunk signaling and Transaction Capabilities Application Part ("TCAP") for CCS-based features in the interconnection of their networks. All Network Interoperability Interface Forum (NIIF) adopted standards shall be adhered to.

3.2 Where available, CCS signaling shall be used by the Parties to set up calls between the Parties' Telephone Exchange Service networks. If CCS signaling is unavailable, the Parties shall use MF (Multi-Frequency) signaling.

3.3 The following list of publications describe the practices, procedures and specifications generally utilized by the industry for signaling purposes and are listed herein to assist the Parties in meeting their respective interconnection responsibilities related to signaling:

GR-000246-CORE, Bell Communications Research Specifications of Signaling System 7 ("SS7")

GR-000317-CORE, Switching System Requirements for Call Control Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part

GR-000394-CORE, Switching System Requirements for Interexchange Carrier Interconnection Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part

GR-000606-CORE, LATA Switching Systems Generic Requirements-Common Channel Signaling-§6.5

GR-000905-CORE, Common Channel Signaling Network Interface Specification Supporting Network Interconnection Message Transfer Part ("MTP") and Integrated Digital Services Network User Part ("ISDNUP")

3.4 The Parties will cooperate on the exchange of Transactional Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) messages to facilitate interoperability of CCS-based features between their respective networks, including all CLASS features and functions, to the extent each Party offers such features and functions to its end users. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided including, without limitation, Calling Party Number (CPN), Originating Line Information ("OLI"), calling party category and charge number.

3.5 Where available each Party shall cooperate to ensure that all of its trunk groups are configured utilizing the B8ZS ESF protocol for 64 kbps clear channel transmission to allow for ISDN interoperability between the Parties' respective networks.

3.6 The Parties shall jointly develop a grooming plan (the "Joint Grooming Plan") which shall define and detail, inter alia,

3.6.1 disaster recovery provisions and escalations;

3.6.2 direct/high usage trunk engineering guidelines; and

3.6.3 such other matters as the Parties may agree.

3.7 If a Party makes a change in its network, which it believes will materially affect the interoperability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide thirty (30) days advance written notice of such change to the other Party.

4.0 Interconnection and Trunking Requirements

4.1 Local Traffic and IntraLATA Toll Traffic

4.1.1 Internet traffic will be routed in the same manner as Local Traffic under this Agreement. The Parties shall reciprocally terminate Local Traffic and IntraLATA toll calls originating on each other's networks as follows:

4.1.1.1 Each party has the option to deploy one or two-way trunks for reciprocal exchange of combined Local Traffic and IntraLATA toll traffic. In such case, each Party will provide to each other its Percentage of Local Use (PLU) for billing purposes. If either Party questions the accuracy of the other's PLU, that issue may be included in a verification review as provided in §32.0 of the General Terms and Conditions. If at any time during the term of this Agreement, the average monthly number of minutes of use (combined Local Traffic and IntraLATA toll traffic) terminated by either Party on the network of the other exceeds the generally accepted engineering practices as mutually agreed to by the Parties, the Party on whose network those minutes have been terminated may elect to require jurisdictionally separate trunks for Local Traffic and IntraLATA toll traffic.

4.1.1.2 To the extent Level 3 provides voice-grade service, and provided ALLTEL becomes an E911 provider during the term of this Agreement, separate trunks will be utilized for connecting Level 3's switch to each 911/E911 tandem.

4.1.1.3 Each Party's operator bureau shall accept BLV and BLVI inquiries from the operator bureau of the other Party in order to allow transparent provisioning of BLV/BLVI traffic between the Parties' networks. Each Party shall route BLV/BLVI inquiries between the Parties respective operator bureaus.

4.2 **Trunking**

Trunking will be established at the DS-1 level or DS-0 level, and facilities will be established at the DS-3/OC-3 level, or higher, as agreed upon by the Parties. All trunking will be jointly engineered to an objective P.01 grade of service. The Parties may utilize additional end office trunking depending upon traffic volume. The parties shall mutually agree to provision trunks as one- or two-way.

5.0 **Network Management**

5.1 **Protective Protocols**

Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps on traffic toward each others network, when required to protect the public switched network from congestion due to facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload. The Parties will immediately notify each other of any protective control action planned or executed.

5.2 **Expansive Protocols**

Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either Party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes will not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls will only be used when mutually agreed to by the Parties.

5.3 **Mass Calling**

The Parties shall cooperate and share pre-planning information, where available, regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes, to prevent or mitigate the impact of these events on the public switched network.

6.0 **Forecasting/Servicing Responsibilities**

6.1 Both Parties agree to provide an initial forecast for establishing the initial interconnection facilities. Subsequent forecasts will be provided on a semi-annual basis.

6.2 ALLTEL shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the trunk groups terminating to Level 3. Level 3 shall be responsible for forecasting and servicing the trunk groups terminating to ALLTEL end users. Standard trunk traffic engineering methods will be used as described in Telcordia document SR-TAP-000191, Trunk Traffic Engineering Concepts and Applications.

6.3 The Parties shall both be responsible for efficient planning and utilization of the network and employ all reasonable means of forecasting, monitoring and correcting for inefficient use of the network. The Parties will conduct facility planning meetings to determine initial and subsequent utilization standards subsequent to execution of this Agreement but prior to direct interconnection in accordance with §3.5 of this Appendix preceding.

6.4 Each Party shall provide a specified point of contact for planning, forecasting and trunk servicing purposes.

7.0 **Trunk Servicing**

7.1 Orders between the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect trunks shall be processed by use of an Access Service Request ("ASR") or another industry standard method subsequently adopted by the Parties to replace the ASR for local trunk ordering.

7.2 The Parties shall jointly manage the capacity of local Interconnection Trunk Groups. Either Party may send the other Party an ASR to initiate changes to the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups that the ordering Party desires based on the ordering Party's capacity assessment.

7.3 Orders that comprise a major project (i.e., new switch deployment) shall be submitted in a timely fashion, and their implementation shall be jointly planned and coordinated.

7.4 Each Party shall be responsible for engineering its networks on its side of the IP.

7.5 Each Party will provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians.

7.6 The Parties will coordinate and schedule testing activities of their own personnel, and others as applicable, to ensure its interconnection trunks/trunk groups are installed per the interconnection order, meet agreed-upon acceptance test requirements, and are placed in service by the due date.

7.7 Each Party will perform sectionalization to determine if a trouble is located in its facility or its portion of the interconnection trunks prior to referring the trouble to each other.

7.8 The Parties will advise each other's Control Office if there is an equipment failure, which may affect the interconnection trunks.

7.9 Each Party will provide to each other test-line numbers and access to test lines.

7.10 The Parties will cooperatively plan and implement coordinated repair procedures for the local interconnection trunks to ensure trouble reports are resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.

7.11 A blocking standard of one-half of one percent (.005) during the average busy hour for final trunk groups between an Level 3 end office and ALLTEL access tandem carrying meet point traffic shall be maintained. All other final trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (.01). ALLTEL will engineer all interconnection trunks between the Parties to a 6 db of digital pad configuration.

ATTACHMENT 5: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 6: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 7: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 8: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 9: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 10: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 11: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 12: COMPENSATION

1.0 Introduction

1.1 For purposes of compensation under this Agreement, the telecommunications traffic exchanged between the Parties will be classified as Local Traffic, Transit Traffic, IntraLATA Interexchange Traffic, InterLATA Interexchange Traffic, Internet Traffic, or Wireless Traffic. The Parties agree that, notwithstanding the classification of traffic by either party with respect to its end users the classification of traffic provided in this Agreement shall control with respect to compensation between the Parties under the terms of this Agreement. The provisions of this Attachment shall not apply to services provisioned by ALLTEL to Level 3 as local Resale Services.

1.2 Calls originated by Level 3's end users and terminated to ALLTEL's end users (or vice versa) will be classified as "Local Traffic" under this Agreement if: (i) the call originates and terminates in the same ALLTEL Exchange; or (ii) originates and terminates within different ALLTEL Exchanges that share a common mandatory local calling area, e.g., mandatory Extended Area Service (EAS), mandatory Extended Local Calling Service (ELCS), or other like types of mandatory expanded local calling scopes as specified or defined by ALLTEL tariffs.

1.3 Calls will be classified as "Internet Traffic" if the call is originated on the network of either of the Parties and is transmitted to, or returned from, the Internet at any point during the duration of the transmission.

1.4 A Party will notify the other of the date when its first commercial call is terminated to the other Party pursuant to this Attachment.

2.0 Responsibilities of the Parties

2.1 Each Party will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of the data it submits to the other Party.

2.2 Each Party will provide the other Party the originating Calling Party Number (CPN) with respect to each call terminated on the other Party's network.

2.3 Each Party shall identify and make available to the other Party, at no additional charge, a contact person for the handling of any billing questions or problems that may arise during the implementation and performance of this Attachment.

2.4 All calls exchanged without CPN will be billed as IntraLATA Interexchange Traffic, if the failure to transmit CPN is not caused by technical malfunctions. In the event that technical malfunctions result in lack of transmission of CPN, the Parties will cooperate in attempting to resolve such technical malfunctions and the Parties will develop and utilize mutually agreeable surrogate methods for determining compensation that shall be utilized until the technical malfunctions are resolved.

3.0 Compensation for Termination of Local Traffic and Internet Traffic

3.1 Each Party will be compensated for the exchange of Traffic, as defined in §1.0 of this Attachment, in accordance with the provisions of §3.0.

3.2 The Parties agree to reciprocally exchange Traffic between their networks. Each Party shall bill its end-users for such traffic and will be entitled to retain all revenues from such traffic without payment of further compensation to the other Party (i.e., bill and keep).

4.0 **Reciprocal Compensation for Transit Traffic**

4.1 Transit traffic is Traffic exchanged between the Parties that originates or terminates on the network of another telecommunication service provider (the "Non-Party Provider"), where one of the Parties or the Non-Party Provider performs a local tandem function to complete the traffic between the others. Where the local tandem function is performed by the Non-Party Provider to complete Traffic between the Parties, the Parties agree that the Originating Party will compensate the Non-Party Provider for any transit fees applicable to the exchange of Traffic and that compensation between the Parties for the exchange of Traffic performed indirectly will be as specified in §3.0 of this Attachment. If ALLTEL or the Level 3 performs the local tandem function, the following shall be applicable:

4.1.1 Prior to either Party providing transit traffic services to the other, the Party requesting transit service must provide notice to the other Party.

4.1.2 Party represents that it will not send Traffic to the other Party that is destined for the network of a Non-Party Provider unless and until such Party has the authority to exchange traffic with the Non-Party Provider.

4.2 All traffic, other than Local Traffic and Internet Traffic, that transits a tandem will be classified and treated as Meet-Point Billing Traffic, unless otherwise agreed in writing between the Parties.

5.0 **Reciprocal Compensation for Termination of IntraLATA Interexchange Traffic**

5.1 Compensation for termination of intrastate intraLATA interexchange service traffic will be at the applicable terminating access rates for Message Telephone Service (MTS) and originating access rates for 800 Service, including the Carrier Common Line (CCL) charge, as set forth in the relevant Party's intrastate access service tariff or price list. Compensation for termination of interstate intraLATA intercompany traffic will be at the applicable terminating access rates for MTS and originating access rates for 800 Service including the CCL charge, as set forth in the relevant Party's interstate access service tariff.

5.2 In the event that Level 3 does not have a filed intraLATA Interexchange tariff for access service, Level 3 agrees to utilize rates that do not exceed ALLTEL's tariffed access rates.

6.0 **Compensation for Origination and Termination of Switched Access Service Traffic to or from an IXC (Meet-Point Billing (MPB) Arrangements)**

6.1 Compensation for termination of interstate interLATA intercompany traffic will be at access rates as set forth in the relevant Party's applicable interstate access tariffs.

6.2 In the event that Level 3 does not have a filed Intralata Interexchange tariff or price list for access service, Level 3 will utilize rates that do not exceed ALLTEL's tariffed access rates.

6.3 The Parties will each establish their respective MPB arrangements applicable to its provision of switched access services to Interexchange Carriers via its access tandem switch and such arrangements will be in accordance with the MPB guidelines adopted by and contained in the

Ordering and Billing Forum's MECOD and MECAB documents. Except as modified herein, MPB arrangements will be determined during joint network planning.

6.4 Each Party will maintain provisions in its federal and state access tariffs, or provisions within the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) Tariff No. 4, or any successor tariff, sufficient to reflect the MPB arrangements, including MPB percentages, developed in accordance with this Agreement.

6.5 As detailed in the MECAB document, the Parties will exchange all information necessary to accurately, reliably and promptly bill third parties for Switched Access Services jointly handled by the Parties via the MPB arrangement. The Parties will exchange the information in Exchange Message Interface (EMI) format, on magnetic tape or via a mutually acceptable electronic file transfer protocol. The initial billing company (IBC) will provide the information to the subsequent billing company within ten (10) days of the IBC bill date. A Party that fails to deliver the billing data will be liable to the other for the amount of associated unbillable charges, if any.

6.6 If MPB data is not submitted to the other within ten (10) days of the IBC bill date or is not in the standard EMI format, and if as a result the other Party is delayed in billing the IXC for the appropriate charges it incurs, the delaying Party shall pay the other Party a late MPB data delivery charge which will be the total amount of the delayed charges times the highest interest rate (in decimal value) which may be levied by law for commercial transactions, compounded daily for the number of days from the date the MPB charges should have been received, to and including the date the MPB charge information is actually received. When the receiving Party has requested a delay in transmission of the records, a MPB data delivery charge will not be assessed.

6.7 ALLTEL and Level 3 will coordinate and exchange the billing account reference ("BAR") and billing account cross reference ("BACR") numbers for the MPB arrangements described in this Agreement. Each Party will notify the other if the level of billing or other BAR/BACR elements change and results in a new BAR/BACR number.

6.8 Billing to interexchange carriers for the switched access services jointly provided by the Parties via the MPB arrangement will be according to the multiple bill multiple tariff method. As described in the MECAB document, each Party will render a bill in accordance with its tariff for its portion of the service. Each Party will bill its own network access service rates to the IXC. The Party that provides the end office switching will be entitled to bill any residual interconnection charges ("RIC") and common carrier line ("CCL") charges associated with the traffic. In those MPB situations where one Party sub-tends the other Party's access tandem, only the Party providing the access tandem is entitled to bill the access tandem fee and any associated local transport charges. The Party that provides the end office switching is entitled to bill end office switching fees, local transport charges, RIC and CCL charges, as applicable.

6.9 MPB will also apply to all jointly provided traffic bearing the 900, 800 and 888 NPAs or any other non-geographical NPAs which may likewise be designated for such traffic where the responsible party is an IXC.

6.10 Each Party will provide the other a single point of contact to handle any MPB questions.

7.0 Billing Arrangements for Compensation for Termination of IntraLATA, Local, Internet, and Transit Traffic

7.1 Measuring and billing procedures are specified in §§7.2-7.6 of this Attachment.

7.2 With respect to those Exchanges where Level 3 intends to provide Local Exchange Service, Level 3 will, at a minimum, obtain a separate NXX code for each Exchange or group of Exchanges that share a common Mandatory Local Calling Scope. At such time as both Parties have implemented billing and routing capabilities to determine traffic jurisdiction on a basis other than NXX codes separate NXX codes as specified in this paragraph will not be required. At such time as Level 3 requests ALLTEL to establish interconnection to enable Level 3 to provide Exchange Services, the Parties will determine the number of NXXs necessary to identify the jurisdictional nature of traffic for intercompany compensation. At such time as Level 3 requests additional points of interconnection, the Parties will appropriately define the number of NXXs necessary for the new interconnection points.

7.3 Bills rendered by either Party to the other will be due and payable as specified in the General Terms and Conditions, §8.0.

8.0 **Alternate Billed Traffic**

8.1 All call types routed between the networks must be accounted for, and revenues settled among the Parties. Certain types of calls will require exchange of billing records between the Parties including intraLATA alternate billed calls (e.g. calling card, bill-to-third party, and collect records and LEC/CTU-provided Toll Free Service records). The Parties will utilize, where possible existing accounting and settlement systems to bill, exchange records and settle revenue.

8.1.1 The exchange of billing records for alternate billed calls (e.g., calling card, bill-to-third, and collect) will be through the existing CMDS processes, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties in writing.

8.1.2 Inter-Company Settlements ("ICS") revenues will be settled through the Calling Card and Third Number Settlement System ("CATS"). Each Party will make its own arrangements with respect to participation in the CATS processes, through direct participation or a hosting arrangement with a direct participant.

8.1.3 Non-ICS revenue is defined as revenues associated with collect calls, calling card calls, and billed to third number calls which originate, terminate and are billed within the same Bellcore Client Company Territory. The Parties will negotiate and execute an agreement within 30 days of the execution of this Agreement for settlement of non-ICS revenue. This separate arrangement is necessary since existing CATS processes do not permit the use of CATS for non-ICS revenue. The Parties agree that the CMDS system can be used to transport the call records for this traffic.

8.1.4 Each Party will provide the appropriate call records to the other for toll free IntraLATA Interexchange Traffic, thus permitting the to bill its subscribers for the inbound Toll Free Service. Each Party may charge its tariffed rate for such record provision. No adjustments to data contained in tapes, disks or Network Data Mover will be made by a Party without the mutual agreement of the Parties.

9.0 **Issuance of Bills**

9.1 Each Party shall establish monthly billing dates and the bill date will be the same day each month. All bills will be delivered to the other Party no later than ten (10) calendar days from the bill date

and at least twenty (20) calendar days prior to the payment due date (as described in this Attachment), whichever is earlier. If a Party fails to receive a billing within the time period specified in this Section, the corresponding payment due date will be extended by the number of days the bill is late in being delivered.

ATTACHMENT 13: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 14: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 15: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 16: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 17: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 18: PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1.0 General

1.1 ALLTEL will use its best efforts to satisfy all service standards, intervals, measurements, specifications, performance requirements, technical requirements, and performance standards that are specified in this Agreement or are required by law or regulation. In addition, ALLTEL's performance under this Agreement shall be provided to Level 3 at parity with the performance ALLTEL provides itself for like service(s). The parties agree to abide by the applicable state PSC and FCC performance remedy plans that specifically apply to ALLTEL. Where no such plans have been defined, the terms below will apply.

2.0 Interconnection

2.1 Trunk Provisioning Intervals

2.1.1 Access Service Request (ASR)

Positive acknowledgment of receipt of a non-valid ASR will be made within two business days, provided the ASR is received before 3PM Eastern Standard Time (1PM Mountain Standard Time.) The start time for determining the FOC interval will commence with receipt of a valid ASR. A non-valid ASR will not start the FOC interval.

2.1.2 Firm Order Confirmation (FOC)

A FOC confirming the due date will be sent within two (2) business days (sixteen (16) business hours) after receipt of a valid ASR subject to facility availability.

2.1.3 Provisioning Interval

Subject to availability of facilities service will be implemented (trunks in service) within twenty (20) business days of receipt of a valid ASR.

2.1.4 Performance Expectation

Provided the conditions are met under 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 proceeding, ALLTEL's performance expectation is to provide 100% due dates met within reporting month. If service levels fall below 95% of the performance expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days.

2.2 Trunking Grade of Service

2.2.1 Exchange Access (IXC Toll Traffic)

For exchange access traffic routed via an access tandem blocking on each leg will be held to .005 (1/2% blockage).

2.2.2 All Other

All other final routed traffic will be held to .01 (1% blockage).

2.2.3 **Performance Expectation**

Provided the conditions are met under 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 preceding, ALLTEL's performance expectation is to provide traffic flow 100% of the time. If service levels fall below the performance expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days.

2.3 **Trunk Service Restoration**

2.3.1 **Service Affecting**

Service affecting trunk service trouble will be responded to within one (1) hour of trouble notification. Service affecting trouble is defined as a condition or event affecting 20% or more of the total trunk group and overflows are experienced.

2.3.2 **Non Service Affecting**

Non service affecting trouble will be responded to within one (1) hour of trouble notification, and best efforts will be made to restore service within twenty-four (24) hours.

2.3.3 **Performance Expectation**

Zero loss of service due to downtime. If service levels fall below the Performance Expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days. Specific time-frames will be listed relative to performance.

3.0 **Maintenance Intervals**

3.1. **Service Affecting**

Service affecting maintenance trouble will be responded to within one (1) hour of trouble notification.

3.2 **Non Service Affecting**

Non service affecting trouble will be responded to within one (1) hour of trouble notification, and best efforts will be made to restore service within twenty-four (24) hours.

3.3 **Performance Expectation**

Zero loss of service due to downtime. If service levels fall below the Performance Expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days. Specific time-frames will be listed relative to performance.

4.0 **Local Service Provisioning Intervals**

4.1 **Local Service Request (LSR)**

Positive acknowledgement of receipt of a non-valid LSR will be made within two (2) business days, provided the LSR is received before 3PM Eastern Standard Time (1PM Mountain Standard Time). The start time for determining the Local Service Request Confirmation (LSCN) interval will commence with receipt of a valid LSR. A non-valid LSR will not start the LSCN interval.

4.2 **Local Service Request Confirmation (LSCN)**

An LSCN confirming the due date will be sent within two (2) business days (sixteen (16) business hours) after receipt of a valid LSR subject to facility availability.

4.3 **Performance Expectation**

Provided the conditions are met under 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 proceeding, ALLTEL's performance expectation is to provide 100% due dates within the reporting month. If service levels fall below 95% of the performance expectation within a reporting month, root cause analysis and joint problem resolution will be implemented within thirty (30) days.

ATTACHMENT 19: RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

ATTACHMENT 20: DEFINITIONS

Definitions of the terms used in this Agreement are listed below. The Parties agree that certain terms may be defined elsewhere in this Agreement, as well as terms not defined shall be construed in accordance with their customary meaning in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.

"Access Service Request" or **"ASR"** means the industry standard forms and supporting documentation used for ordering Access Services. The ASR may be used to order trunking and facilities between ALLTEL and Level 3 for local interconnection.

"Act" means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. §151 et seq.), as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as may be subsequently amended or, as from time to time interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the FCC or the Commission having authority to interpret the Act within its state of jurisdiction.

"ALLTEL" has the meaning set forth in the preamble.

"Ancillary Services" are services which support but are not required for interconnection of telecommunications networks between two or more parties, e.g., 911, DA, and Directory Services.

"**Automatic Location Identification**" or "**ALI**" is a feature developed for E911 systems that provides for a visual display of the caller's telephone number, address, and the means of the emergency response agencies that are responsible for that address. The Competitive Local Exchange Company will provide ALI record information in the National Number Association (NENA) version #2 format.

"**Automatic Location Identification/Data Management System**" or "**ALI/DMS**" means the emergency service (E911/911) database containing subscriber location information (including name, address, telephone number, and sometimes special information from the local service provider) used to determine to which Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to route the call.

"Calling Party Number" or "CPN" is a feature of Signaling System 7 ("SS7") protocol whereby the 10-digit number of the calling party is forwarded from the end office.

"CLASS (Custom Local Area Signaling Service) and Custom Features" means a grouping of optional enhancements to basic local exchange service that offers special call handling features to residential and single-line business customers (e.g., call waiting, call forwarding and automatic redial).

"Commission" or "PUC" or "PSC" means the state administrative agency to which the United States Congress or state legislature has delegated authority to regulate the operations of Local Exchange Carriers ("LECs") as defined in the Act.

"Common Channel Signaling" or "CCS" means a special network, fully separate from the transmission path of the public switched network that digitally transmits call setup and network control data.

"Confidential Information" has the meaning set forth in §6.0 of the General Terms and Conditions.

"Contract Year" means a twelve (12) month period during the term of the contract commencing on the Effective Date and each anniversary thereof.

"Customer" means, whether or not capitalized, any business, residential or governmental customer of services covered by the Agreement, and includes the term "End User". More specific meanings of either of such terms are dependent upon the context in which they appear in the Agreement and the provisions of the Act.

"Customer Proprietary Network Information" or **"CPNI"** means information that relates to the quantity, technical configuration, type, destination, and amount of a Telecommunications Service subscribed to by any customer of a Telecommunications Carrier, and that is made available to the carrier by the customer solely by virtue of the carrier customer relationship; and information contained in the bills pertaining to telephone exchange service or telephone toll service received by a customer of a carrier.

"Discloser" means that Party to this Agreement which has disclosed Confidential Information to the other Party.

"E911 Service" is a method of routing 911 calls to a PSAP that uses customer location data in the ALI/DMS to determine the PSAP to which a call should be routed.

"Effective Date" is the date indicated in the Preface on which the Agreement shall become effective.

"End Office" means a local ALLTEL switching point where ALLTEL end user customer station loops are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to the network.

"End User" means, whether or not capitalized, any business, residential or governmental customer of services covered by the Agreement and includes the term "Customer". More specific meanings of either of such terms are dependent upon the context in which they appear in the Agreement and the provisions of the Act.

"Enhanced White Pages Listings" means optional features available for residential White Pages Directory Listings (e.g., bold, italics, lines of distinction).

"Exchange" is the geographic territory delineated as an exchange area for ALLTEL by official commission boundary maps.

"Exchange Access" is defined in the Act.

"Exchange Services" are two-way switched voice-grade telecommunications services with access to the public switched network with originate and terminate within an exchange.

"FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission.

"ICB" means individual case basis.

"Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier" or "ILEC" has the meaning given the term in the Act.

"Interconnection" has the meaning given the term in the Act and refers to the connection of separate pieces of equipment, facilities, or platforms between or within networks for the purpose of transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic.

"Interconnection Agreement" means the Agreement between the Parties entitled "Interconnection Agreement."

"Interexchange Carrier" or "IXC" means a telecommunications provider that provides long distance communications services between LATAs and authorized by the Commission to provide long distance communications services.

"InterLATA" has the meaning given the term in the Act.

"Internet Traffic" means traffic that is originated on the network of either of the Parties and is transmitted to, or returned from, the Internet at any point during the duration of the transmission.

"IntraLATA Toll Traffic" means all IntraLATA calls provided by a LEC other than traffic completed in the LECs local exchange boundary.

"Interconnection Point" or **"IP"** is a mutually agreed upon point of demarcation where the networks of ALLTEL and Level 3 interconnect for the exchange of traffic.

"Local Access and Transport Area" or "LATA" has the meaning given to the term in the Act.

"Local Exchange Carrier" or "LEC" means the incumbent carrier that provides facility-based Exchange Services, which has universal-service and carrier-of-last-resort obligations.

"Local Service Provider" or "Level 3" means a non-incumbent carrier licensed by the Commission with the appropriate certification (e.g., a Certificate of Authorization or Service Provider Certificate of Authorization) and authority necessary to provide Exchange Services.

"Local Service Request" or "LSR" means an industry standard form used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect trunks, circuits and/or facilities associated with unbundled Network Elements.

"911 Service" means a universal telephone number, which gives the public direct access to the PSAP. Basic 911 service collects 911 calls from one or more local exchange switches that serve a geographic area. The calls are then sent to the correct authority designated to receive such calls.

"Operating Company Number" or "OCN" means nationally recognized company codes set forth in Bellcore's LERG that will be used as the official identification code for each company that provides local exchange telephone service.

"Parties," means ALLTEL and Level 3 collectively.

"Party" means either ALLTEL or Level 3 as applicable.

"P.01 Transmission Grade of Service" means a trunk facility provisioning standard with the statistical probability of no more than one call in 100 blocked on initial attempt during the average busy hour.

"Percent Interstate Local Usage" or **"PLU"** is a calculation which represents the ratio of the local minutes to the sum of local intraLATA toll minutes between exchange carriers sent over Local Interconnection Trunks. Directory assistance, BLV/BLVI, 900, 976, transiting calls from other exchange carriers and switched access calls are not included in the calculation of the PLU.

"Public Safety Answering Point" or **"PSAP"** is the public safety communications center where 911 calls placed by the public for a specific geographic area will be answered.

"Recipient" means the Party to this Agreement, which has received Confidential Information from the other Party.

"Service Area" means the geographic area, e.g., Major Trading Area, Basic Trading Area, Metropolitan Service Area, Geographic Service Area, and Rural Service Area, served by the cellular system within which Carrier is licensed to provide service.

"Signaling System 7" or "SS7" means a signaling protocol used by the CCS network.

"Telephone Exchange Service" has the meanings given in the Act.

"Telecommunications" has the meanings given in the Act.

"Termination" means the switching of Local Traffic at the terminating carrier's end office switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of such traffic to the called Party.

"Territory" means the incumbent local exchange areas within the states identified in Appendix A.

"Undefined Terms" The Parties acknowledge that terms may appear in the Agreement that are not defined and agree that any such terms shall be construed in accordance with their end-user usage in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.

"Work Locations" means any real estate that ALLTEL owns, leases or licenses or in which it holds easements or other rights to use, or does use, in connection with this Agreement.

ATTACHMENT 21: ACRONYMS

ALLTEL	ALLTEL Nebraska, Inc.
AMA	Automated Message Accounting
ASR	Access Service Request
BFR	Bona Fide Request
BRADS	Bellcore Rating Administrative Data Systems
CAP	Competitive Access Provider
CATS	Calling Card and Third Number Settlement System
CCL	Carrier Common Line
CCS	Common Channel Signaling
CLASS	Custom Local Area Signaling Service
CMDS	Centralized Message Distribution System
CPN	Calling Party Number
CPNI	Customer Propriety Network Information
EAS	Extended Area Service
ELCS	Extended Local Calling Service
EMI	Exchange Message Interface
EUCL	End User Common Line
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FOC	Firm Order Commitment
ILEC	Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier
IP	Interconnection Point
ISDN	Integrated Digital Services Network
ISDNUP	Integrated Digital Services Network User Part
IXC	Interexchange Carrier
LATA	Local Access and Transport Area
LEC	Local Exchange Carrier
LERG	Local Exchange Routing Guide
LOA	Letter of Authority
LRN	Local Routing Number
LSCN	Local Service Request Confirmation
Level 3	Local Service Provider
LSR	Local Service Request
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MTP	Message Transfer Part
MTS	Message Telephone Service
NPUC	Nebraska Public Utilities Commission
NEBS	Network Equipment Building System
NECA	National Exchange Carrier Association
NIIF	Network Interoperability Interface Forum
NPA	Numbering Plan Area
NPAC	Number Portability Administration Center
OCN	Operating Company Number
OLI	Originating Line Information
PIC	Primary Interexchange Carrier
PLU	Percent Local Usage
PON	Purchase Order Number
PSC	Public Service Commission
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
RDBS	Routing Data Base Systems

SLC	Subscriber Line Charge
SONET	Synchronous Optical Network
SPNP	Service Number Portability
SS7	Signaling System 7
STP	Signaling Transfer Point
TCAP	Transaction Capabilities Application Part