

TRAFFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

NEBRASKA CENTRAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

AND

VERIZON WIRELESS

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I. Article I

1. INTRODUCTION

This traffic exchange and compensation agreement ("Agreement") is effective as of the 21st day of September, 2009 by and between Nebraska Central Telephone Company ("Carrier") with offices at 22 LaBarre St., P.O. Box 700, Gibbon, NE 68840, and the Verizon Wireless entities listed on the signature page of this Agreement individually and collectively doing business as Verizon Wireless (collectively "VZW") with an office and principal place of business at One Verizon Way, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920.

2. RECITALS

WHEREAS, Carrier is an incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in the State of Nebraska;

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

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

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

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

II. Article II

1. DEFINITIONS

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

1.1 "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

- 1.2 "As Defined in the Act", means as specifically defined by the Act, as may be interpreted from time to time by the FCC, the Commission, Nebraska state courts, or federal courts.
- 1.3 "Affiliate" shall have the meaning As Defined in the Act.
- 1.4 "Central Office Switch" means a switch used to provide Telecommunications Service, including, but not limited to:
- (a) "End Office Switch" is a switch in which the subscriber station loops are terminated for connection to either lines or trunks or its functional equivalent. The subscriber receives terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions for a defined geographic area by means of an End Office Switch
 - (b) "Remote End Office Switch" is a switch in which the subscriber station loops are terminated. The control equipment providing terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions ~~would reside in a host office.~~ Local switching capabilities may be resident in a Remote End Office Switch.
 - (c) "Host Office Switch" is a switch with centralized control over the functions of one or more Remote End Office Switches. A Host Office Switch can serve as an end office as well as providing services to other remote end offices requiring terminating, signaling, transmission, and related functions including local switching.
 - (d) "Tandem Office Switch" is a switching system that establishes trunk-to-trunk connections. Local tandems switch calls from one end office to another within the same geographic area, and access tandems switch traffic from host or end offices to and from an Interexchange Carrier. A Tandem Office Switch can provide host office or end office switching functions as well as the tandem functions.
- 1.5 "Commercial Mobile Radio Services" or "CMRS" means a radio communication service between Mobile Stations and land stations, or by Mobile Stations communicating among themselves that is provided for profit and that makes interconnected service available to the public or to such classes of eligible users as to be effectively available to a substantial portion of the public. 47 C.F.R. § 20.
- 1.6 "Comimission" means the Nebraska Public Service Commission.
- 1.7 "Extended Area Service" or "EAS" is as defined and specified in Carrier's then current General Subscriber Services Tariff.

- 1.8 "Effective Date" means the date first above written..
- 1.9 "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 1.10 "Interconnection" for purposes of this Agreement is the linking of Carrier and VZW networks for the exchange of Telecommunications traffic described in this Agreement.
- 1.11 "Interexchange Carrier" or "IXC" means a Telecommunications Carrier that provides Telephone Toll Service As Defined in the Act.
- 1.12 "Local Access and Transport Area" or "LATA" shall have the meaning As Defined in the Act.
- 1.13 "Local Service Area" means, for VZW, Major Trading Area Number 45 (Omaha) and for Carrier, its local calling area contained in Carrier's then current General Subscriber Services Tariff.
- 1.14 "IntraMTA Traffic" is defined for all purposes under this Agreement as Telecommunications traffic that is originated by one Party's network, and terminates to the other Party's network within the same Major Trading Area (MTA). IntraMTA Traffic may be handled on an indirect basis through a third-party tandem provider provided that the service provided by VZW is a two-way mobile service. For purposes of determining originating and terminating points, the originating or terminating point for Carrier shall be the end office serving the calling or called party, and for VZW shall be the cell site location which services the calling or called party at the beginning of the call. IntraMTA Traffic includes traffic originated by customers of another CMRS provider that has entered into a roaming arrangement with VZW while roaming on VZW's network in MTA No. 45.
- 1.15 "Local Exchange Carrier" or "LEC" shall have the meaning As Defined in the Act.
- 1.16 "Major Trading Area" or "MTA" mean the Major Trading Area designated by the FCC which is the service area based on the Rand McNally 1992 Commercial Atlas & Marketing Guide, 123rd edition, at pages 38-39, as further specified or modified by 47 C.F.R. § 24.202(a) or other applicable law.
- 1.17 "Mobile Station" shall have the meaning As Defined in the Act.
- 1.18 "InterMTA Traffic" means all traffic that is not IntraMTA Traffic as defined in Section 1.15 hereof.
- 1.19 "NPA" or the "Number Plan Area" also referred to as an "area code" refers to the three-digit code which precedes the NXX in a dialing

sequence and identifies the general calling area within the North American Numbering Plan scope to which a call is routed to (*i.e.*, NPA/NXX-XXXX).

- 1.20 "NXX" means the three-digit code, which appears as the first three digits of seven-digit telephone numbers within a valid NPA or area code.
- 1.21 "Party" means either Carrier or VZW, and "Parties" means Carrier and VZW.
- 1.22 "Point of Interconnection" or "POI" means the mutually agreed upon point within the Carrier's network where an originating Party's traffic is deemed to be handed off to the terminating Party's network.
- 1.23 "Rate Center" means the specific geographic point and corresponding geographic area that is associated with one or more NPA-NXX codes that have been assigned to an incumbent LEC for its provision of Telecommunications Service.
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- 1.24 "Reciprocal Compensation" means an arrangement between two carriers in which each receives the same compensation rate from the other carrier for the transport and termination on each carrier's network of IntraMTA Traffic, as defined in Section 1.15 above, that originates on the network facilities of the other carrier. Compensation, regardless of the Party that receives it, is symmetrical.
- 1.25 "Telecommunications" shall have the meaning As Defined in the Act.
- 1.26 "Telecommunications Carrier" shall have the meaning As Defined in the Act.
- 1.27 "Telecommunications Service" shall have the meaning As Defined in the Act.
- 1.28 "Termination" means the switching of IntraMTA Traffic at the terminating carrier's End Office Switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of such traffic to the called Party's premises or Mobile Station.
- 1.29 "Transiting Traffic" is traffic that originates from one provider's network, "transits" one or more other provider's network substantially unchanged, and terminates to yet another non-affiliate provider's network.
- 1.30 "Transport" means the transmission and any necessary tandem switching of IntraMTA Traffic subject to Section 251(b)(5) of the Act from the Point of Interconnection between the two carriers to the terminating carrier's End Office Switch that directly serves the called party, or equivalent facility provided by a carrier other than an incumbent LEC.

- 1.30 "Type 2 Service" often referred to as a trunk side connection, is a service that involves interconnection to a telephone company End Office Switch (Type 2-B) or Tandem Office Switch (Type 2-A).

2. **INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION**

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

3. **SCOPE**

- 3.1 This Agreement is intended, *inter alia*, to describe and enable specific traffic exchange and Reciprocal Compensation arrangements between the Parties. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to provide arrangements not specifically provided for herein.
- 3.2 This Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and rates under which the Parties agree to interconnect the CMRS network of VZW and the incumbent Local Exchange Carrier network of Carrier for purposes of exchanging IntraMTA Traffic, provided that the service provided by VZW to its customer is a two-way mobile service as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153(27). This Agreement does not cover VZW one-way paging service traffic.
- 3.3 This Agreement relates to the exchange of traffic between Carrier and VZW. VZW represents that it is a CMRS provider of Telecommunications Service to subscribers in MTA No. 45 (Omaha). Additions or changes to VZW's NPA/NXXs will be as listed in Telcordia's Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") under Operating Company Numbers ("OCN") 5807, 5818, and 6676 in Nebraska.
- 3.4 Carrier's NPA/NXX(s) are listed in the LERG under OCN 1574. Additions or changes to Carrier's NPA/NXXs will be as listed in the LERG under Carrier's OCN.
- 3.5 Any amendment, modification, or supplement to this Agreement must in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each Party.

4. **SERVICE AGREEMENT**

4.1 **Description of Arrangements.** This Agreement provides for the following interconnection and arrangements between the networks of Carrier and VZW. Additional arrangements that may be agreed to in the future will be delineated in Attachment A to this Agreement. An NPA/NXX assigned to VZW shall be treated as Local Service Area traffic by Carrier to the same extent that VZW's NPA/NXXs are assigned to a Rate Center to which Carrier's end users have local calling, provided VZW has network facilities to serve such customers.

4.2 **Indirect Interconnection**

The Parties agree to interconnect their networks indirectly via a third party tandem provider ("Third Party Tandem Provider") in order to exchange IntraMTA Traffic; provided, however, that when Traffic between a single VZW mobile switching office and a single carrier Host Office Switch or End Office Switch reaches 240,000 minutes of use per month for three consecutive months, the Parties agree to establish Direct Connection(s) pursuant to Section 4.3.

The Parties agree that to the extent IntraMTA Traffic is exchanged indirectly via a Third Party Tandem Provider, the originating Party is responsible for any transit fees imposed by the Third Party Tandem Provider. The Parties agree this will in no way prejudice any position either Party may take regarding financial responsibility for charges by Third Party Tandem Providers with respect to future agreements or regulatory or legislative proceedings.

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

4.3 **Direct Interconnection**

Upon request from VZW or when the volume of traffic reaches the threshold specified in Section 4.2 above, the Parties agree to establish direct interconnection facilities. For direct interconnection, the POI shall be at the Carrier's Host Office Switches. VZW will accept one hundred percent (100%) of the responsibility to deliver its originated traffic to and receive Carrier-originated traffic from the POI. In return, Carrier agrees to accept one hundred percent (100%) of the responsibility to deliver its originated traffic to and receive VZW-originated traffic from the POI.

Type 2 Service will be provided on the direct interconnection facilities via a two-way trunk group between Carrier's Host Office Switches and VZW's mobile switching centers. These trunk groups will be provisioned in connection with VZW's NPA/NXX codes assigned within Carrier's Rate

Center served by a Host Office Switch or a Remote End Office Switch, provided that VZW has facilities to serve such customers.

Applicable tariff charges for establishing and provisioning the trunk groups will be billed by Carrier to VZW. Host Office Switch locations and the Remote End Office Switch Rate Centers served by each Host Office Switch are listed in Attachment B. IntraMTA Traffic originated on VZW's network to Carrier's customers that can be reached through Carrier's Host Office Switches shall be routed from VZW's network via the two-way direct trunk group to Carrier's Host Office Switches for termination by Carrier to its customers, as appropriate.

Each Party will perform local number portability ("LNP") database queries on its originated traffic prior to routing any of its originated traffic over the direct interconnection facilities, and will only route traffic over the direct interconnection facilities to the extent the local routing number ("LRN") returned from such queries belongs to the other Party.

4.4 Traffic Subject to Reciprocal Compensation.

Reciprocal Compensation is applicable for Transport and Termination of IntraMTA Traffic as defined in Section 1.15 and is related to the exchange of traffic described in Section 4 and in Attachment A, as applicable. For the purposes of billing compensation for IntraMTA Traffic, billed minutes will be based upon actual usage recorded and/or records/reports provided by the transiting carrier. Measured usage begins when the terminating recording switch receives answer supervision from the called end-user and ends when the terminating recording switch receives or sends disconnect (release message) supervision; whichever occurs first. The measured usage is aggregated at the end of the measurement cycle and rounded to a whole minute. Billing for IntraMTA Traffic shall be based on the aggregated measured usage less traffic that is deemed InterMTA Traffic based on the default factor provided in Section 5.3(f).

The rate for Reciprocal Compensation shall be \$0.0176 per minute.

The Parties agree to bill each other for IntraMTA Traffic as described in this Agreement unless the IntraMTA Traffic exchanged between the Parties is balanced and falls within an agreed upon threshold ("Traffic Balance Threshold"). The Parties agree that for purposes of this Agreement, the Traffic Balance Threshold is reached when the IntraMTA Traffic exchanged, both directly and indirectly, falls between 55% / 45% in either the wireless-to-landline or landline-to-wireless direction. When the actual usage data for three (3) consecutive months indicates that the IntraMTA Traffic exchanged, both directly and indirectly, falls within the Traffic Balance Threshold, then either Party may provide the other Party a

written request, along with verifiable information supporting such request, to eliminate billing for Reciprocal Compensation per minute. Upon written consent by the Party receiving the request, which shall not be withheld unreasonably, there will be no billing for Reciprocal Compensation on a going forward basis unless otherwise agreed to by both Parties, in writing. The Parties' agreement to eliminate billing for Reciprocal Compensation carries with it the precondition regarding the Traffic Balance Threshold discussed above. As such, the two points have been negotiated as one interrelated term containing specific rates and conditions, which are non-severable for purposes of Section 10 hereof.

4.5 Traffic Subject to Switched Access Compensation.

Access charges apply to all InterMTA Traffic originated on VZW's network and delivered to Carrier for termination to its customers as described in Section 4 and Attachment A, as applicable. VZW shall compensate Carrier at Carrier's applicable access tariff rates as described in Section 5.3(f) below for all VZW-originated InterMTA Traffic only to the extent that such VZW-originated InterMTA Traffic is not handed off to an Interexchange Carrier for delivery to Carrier.

4.6 Calculation of Payments and Billing.

- (a) VZW will compensate Carrier for IntraMTA Traffic and InterMTA Traffic delivered to Carrier for termination to its customers; as prescribed in Section 4 and at the rates provided in Sections 4.4 and 4.5. Carrier will compensate VZW for IntraMTA Traffic originated by Carrier's customers on Carrier's network and delivered to VZW, for termination to its customers, as prescribed in Section 4 and at the rate provided in Section 4.4.
- (b) VZW shall prepare a monthly billing statement to Carrier reflecting the calculation of Reciprocal Compensation due VZW. Carrier shall prepare a monthly billing statement to VZW, which will separately reflect the calculation of Reciprocal Compensation, Switched Access Compensation, and total compensation due Carrier. Billing shall be based on actual measured usage, when available. To the extent VZW does not have the capability to bill based on actual measured usage, Carrier may provide the actual measured usage for use by VZW. If actual measured usage is not available, the Parties agree that usage from the third-party transit provider may be used for billing. Alternatively, if VZW does not measure or cannot obtain the landline-to-wireless usage data from Carrier or from the third-party transit provider, then VZW may bill using a factor that is based on each Party's proportion of originating IntraMTA Traffic to total IntraMTA Traffic exchanged between the Parties. This estimated percentage is referred to as the

Traffic Factor and is listed below. The Parties agree to review the Traffic Factor on a periodic basis and, if warranted by the actual usage, revise the Traffic Factor appropriately.

Landline-to-Wireless	25%
Wireless-to-Landline	75%

- (c) Carrier will prepare its bill in accordance with its existing CABS / SECABS billing system. The Parties will make an effort to conform to current and future OBF (CABS BOS) standards, insofar as is reasonable. VZW will prepare its bill in accordance with its existing process for billing Reciprocal Compensation using the following formula:

VZW shall use the Carrier IntraMTA mobile-to-land Minutes of Use ("MOUs) to calculate the land-to-mobile MOUs by dividing the IntraMTA mobile-to-land MOUs by 75% to arrive at 100% of the total IntraMTA traffic. The IntraMTA mobile-to-land minutes are then subtracted from the 100% value to arrive at the 25% land-to-mobile minutes VZW would bill Carrier. (Ex.: 100,000 IntraMTA MOUs are determined to be mobile-to-land. 100,000 is divided by 75% to arrive at 133,333 IntraMTA MOUs total traffic exchanged. 100,000 is then subtracted from 133,333 to arrive at the IntraMTA land-to-mobile MOUs of 33,333 that VZW will bill Carrier.)

- (d) If net billing has been implemented, VZW shall provide Carrier at least sixty (60) days prior written notice when changing its election to perform its own billing.
- (e) In the event the IntraMTA traffic exchanged between the Parties is *de minimis* such that the total IntraMTA minutes exchanged between the Parties is less than 5,000 minutes of use for a one-month period, Carrier may elect to accumulate such minutes of use for billing and will then bill the prior period minutes when the accumulated total equals at least 100,000 minutes of use.
- (f) Recognizing that Carrier must rely upon the information provided by VZW in order to implement measurement for InterMTA Traffic based on cell site location, and in the event that VZW does not provide the necessary information within the call records required by Carrier to identify the cell site by Carrier, both Parties agree that Carrier will use a default factor of five percent (5%) as an estimate of InterMTA Traffic. The actual recorded usage shall be the basis for billing, when available and verifiable. The Parties agree that Carrier's intrastate access tariff rates shall be applied to

sixty percent (60%) of such estimated InterMTA traffic, and that Carrier's interstate access tariff rates shall be applied to the remaining forty percent (40%) of such estimated InterMTA traffic.

- (g) Each Party may request to inspect, during normal business hours, the records which are the basis for any monthly bill issued by the other Party and to request copies thereof provided that the requested records do not exceed twelve (12) months in age from the date the monthly bill containing said record information was issued.
- (h) No Party shall bill the other Party for traffic that is older than twelve (12) months or that predates this Agreement.
- (i) All invoices under this Agreement shall be sent to:

Verizon Wireless	Nebraska Central Telephone Company
Verizon Wireless Attn: Network Dir Tel – Great Plains 500 Technology Dr Ste B300 Weldon Spring, MO 63304	Nebraska Central Telephone Company Attn: Andrew D. Jader 22 LaBarre St., P.O. Box 700 Gibbon, NE 68840

5. NOTICE OF CHANGES

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

6. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

- 6.1 Each Party is individually responsible to provide facilities within its network which are necessary for routing, transporting and, consistent with Section 4, measuring and billing traffic from the other Party's network and for delivering such traffic to the other Party's network in an acceptable industry standard format, and to terminate the traffic it receives in that acceptable industry standard format to the proper address on its network. The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including The National Network Security Plan and The Emergency Preparedness Plan. Neither Party shall use any service related to or use any of the services provided in this Agreement in

any manner that prevents other persons from using their service or destroys the normal quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's customers, and subject to notice and a reasonable opportunity of the offending Party to cure any violation, either Party may discontinue or refuse service if the other Party violates this provision.

- 6.2 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its customers and to other Telecommunications Carriers.
- 6.3 Each Party is responsible for managing NXX codes assigned to it.
- 6.4 Each Party is responsible for obtaining Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") listings of the Common Language Location Identifier ("CLLI") assigned to its switches.
- 6.5 Each Party agrees to adhere to the blocking requirements for interconnection (P.01).
- 6.6 ~~SS7 Out of Band Signaling (CCS/SS7) shall be the signaling of choice for interconnecting trunks where technically feasible for both Parties. Use of a third-party provider of SS7 trunks for connecting VZW to the Carrier SS7 systems is permitted. Such connections will meet generally accepted industry technical standards. Each Party is responsible for its own SS7 signaling and therefore, neither Party will bill the other Party for SS7 signaling charges. Notwithstanding the previous, if the NECA tariff to which NCTC subscribes for interstate service changes with respect to SS7, the Parties will meet and mutually agree to modify this section for compliance with such changes.~~
- 6.7 Each Party shall be responsible for its own independent connections to the 911/E911 network.
- 6.8 All originating traffic shall contain basic call information within the Initial Address Message (IAM) such as the calling number and will meet generally accepted industry technical standards. Altering of data parameters within the IAM shall not be permitted.

7. TERM AND TERMINATION

- 7.1 Subject to the provisions of Section 13, the initial term of this Agreement shall be for a two-year term ("Term"), which shall commence on the Effective Date. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive six (6) month periods, unless not less than sixty (60) days prior to the end of the Term or any renewal term, either Party notifies the other Party of its intent to terminate this Agreement or negotiate a successor agreement. In the case of a notice to terminate, the other Party may request negotiation of a successor agreement up to the end of the then-current term of this Agreement.

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

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

As provided in the Act, either Party may submit a Bona Fide Request ("BFR") to the other Party to initiate negotiations towards an agreement and interim compensation may be instituted during the pendency of such negotiations. The rates, terms, and conditions applying during the interim period between receipt of the BFR and when an agreement is executed shall be trued-up to be consistent with the rate, terms, and conditions of the subject agreement reached through negotiations or arbitration.

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

- (a) If any portion of any amount due to a Party (the "Billing Party") under this Agreement is subject to a bona fide dispute between the Parties, the Party billed (the "Non-Paying Party") shall, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the invoice containing such disputed amount, give written notice to the Billing Party of the amounts it disputes ("Disputed Amounts") and include in such notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item. The Non-Paying Party shall pay when due all undisputed amounts to the Billing Party. The Parties will work together in good faith to resolve issues relating to the disputed amounts. If the dispute is resolved such that payment of the disputed amount is required, whether for the original amount or for the settlement amount, the Non-Paying Party shall pay the full disputed or settlement amounts with interest at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1½%) per

month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Nebraska applicable law. In addition, the Billing Party may initiate a complaint proceeding with the appropriate regulatory or judicial entity, if unpaid undisputed amounts become more than ninety (90) days past due, provided the Billing Party gives an additional thirty (30) days notice and opportunity to cure the default.

- (b) Any undisputed amounts not paid when due shall accrue interest from the date such amounts were due at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1½%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Nebraska applicable law.
- (c) Undisputed amounts shall be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice from the Billing Party.

7.3 Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement in accordance with this Section 8:

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- (a) Each Party shall comply immediately with its obligations as set forth above;
 - (b) Each Party shall promptly pay all amounts (including any late payment charges) owed under this Agreement;
 - (c) The provisions of Sections 11.0 and 12.0 shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

7.4 Either Party may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part in the event of a default of the other Party, provided, however, that the non-defaulting Party notifies the defaulting Party in writing of the alleged default and the defaulting Party does not implement mutually acceptable steps to remedy such alleged default within thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice thereof.

8. **CANCELLATION CHARGES**

Except as provided herein, no cancellation charges shall apply.

9. **SEVERABILITY**

The services, arrangements, terms and conditions of this Agreement were mutually negotiated by the Parties as a total arrangement and are intended to be non-severable. However, if any provision of this Agreement is held by a court or regulatory agency of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the rest of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected unless removal of that provision results in a material change to this Agreement. If a material change as described in this paragraph occurs as a result of action by a

court or regulatory agency, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith for replacement language. If replacement language cannot be agreed upon within a reasonable time period, either Party may invoke dispute resolution procedures as set forth in this Agreement.

10. INDEMNIFICATION

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

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

Notwithstanding this indemnification provision or any other provision in this Agreement, neither Party, nor its parent, partners, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, or employees, shall be liable to the other for Consequential Damages (as defined in § 11.3).

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

- (a) In the event the Indemnifying Party does not promptly assume or diligently pursue the defense of the tendered action, then the Indemnified Party may proceed to defend or settle said action and the Indemnifying Party shall hold harmless the Indemnified Party from any loss, cost liability, damage and expense.
- (b) In the event the Party otherwise entitled to indemnification from the other elects to decline such indemnification, then the Party

making such an election may, at its own expense, assume defense and settlement of the claim, lawsuit or demand.

- (c) The Parties will cooperate in every reasonable manner with the defense or settlement of any claim, demand, or lawsuit.

11. **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

- 11.1 No liability shall attach to either Party, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees, officers, directors, or partners for damages arising from errors, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, or delays in the course of establishing, furnishing, rearranging, moving, terminating, changing, or providing or failing to provide services or facilities (including the obtaining or furnishing of information with respect thereof or with respect to users of the services or facilities) in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- 11.2 Except as otherwise provided in Section 10, no Party shall be liable to the other Party for any loss, defect or equipment failure caused by the conduct of the first Party, its agents, servants, contractors or others acting in aid or concert with that Party, except in the case of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- 11.3 In no event shall either Party have any liability whatsoever to the other Party for any indirect, special, consequential, incidental or punitive damages, including but not limited to loss of anticipated profits or revenue or other economic loss in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted or done hereunder (collectively, "Consequential Damages"), even if the other Party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

12. **DISCLAIMER**

EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED HEREIN, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY AS TO MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR INTENDED OR PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO SERVICES PROVIDED HEREUNDER. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER PARTY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER PARTY WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD-PARTY.

13. **REGULATORY APPROVAL**

The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement will be filed with the Commission, and to the extent required by FCC rules may thereafter be filed with the FCC. Each Party covenants and agrees to fully support approval of this Agreement by the Commission or the FCC under Section 252(e) of the Act without modification. The

Parties, however, reserve the right to seek regulatory relief and otherwise seek redress from each other regarding performance and implementation of this Agreement. In the event the Commission or FCC rejects this Agreement in whole or in part, the Parties agree to meet and negotiate in good faith to arrive at a mutually acceptable modification of the rejected portion(s). Further, this Agreement is subject to change, modification, or cancellation as may be required by a regulatory authority or court in the exercise of its lawful jurisdiction.

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

14. CHANGE IN LAW

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

15. INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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

- 16.1 Informal Resolution of Disputes. At the written request of a Party, each Party will, within thirty (30) days of such request, appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative, empowered to resolve such dispute, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The Parties intend that non-lawyer,

business representatives conduct these negotiations. The location, format, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions shall be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and correspondence among the representatives for purposes of these negotiations shall be treated as Confidential Information developed for purposes of settlement, exempt from discovery, and shall not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of all Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and may, if otherwise discoverable, be discovered or otherwise admissible, be admitted in evidence, in the arbitration or lawsuit.

16.2 Formal Dispute Resolution. If negotiations fail to produce an agreeable resolution within ninety (90) days, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanisms; provided, that upon mutual agreement of the Parties such disputes may also be submitted to binding arbitration. In the case of an arbitration, each Party shall bear its own costs. The Parties shall equally split the fees of any mutually agreed upon arbitration procedure and the associated arbiter.

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

17. MISCELLANEOUS

17.1 Authorization.

(a) Nebraska Central Telephone Company is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Nebraska and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to any necessary regulatory approval.

(b) The Verizon Wireless entities listed on the signature page of this Agreement are duly organized, validly existing, and in good standing under the laws of the respective states in which they are organized. Each has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to any necessary regulatory approval.

17.2 Compliance. Each Party shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations applicable to its performance under this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as

requiring or permitting either Party to contravene any mandatory requirement of federal or state law, or any regulations or orders adopted pursuant to such law.

- 17.3 Independent Contractors. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by VZW or Carrier in compliance with this Agreement, shall be deemed to create an agency or joint venture relationship between VZW and Carrier, or any relationship other than that of co-carriers. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by VZW or Carrier in compliance with this Agreement, shall create contractual, agency, or any other type of relationship or third party liability between VZW and Carrier end users or others.
- 17.4 Force Majeure. Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, work stoppages, equipment failure, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions or any other circumstances beyond the reasonable control and without fault or negligence of the Party affected (collectively, a "Force Majeure Event"). If any Force Majeure condition occurs, the Party delayed or unable to perform shall give immediate notice to the other Party and shall take all reasonable steps to correct the Force Majeure condition. During the pendency of the Force Majeure, the duties of the Parties under this Agreement affected by the Force Majeure condition shall be abated and shall resume without liability thereafter.
- 17.5 Confidentiality.
- (a) Any information such as specifications, drawings, sketches, business information, forecasts, models, samples, data, computer programs and other software and documentation of one Party (a "Disclosing Party") that is furnished or made available or otherwise disclosed to the other Party or any of its employees, contractors, or agents (its "Representatives" and with a Party, a "Receiving Party") pursuant to this Agreement ("Proprietary Information") shall be deemed the property of the Disclosing Party. Proprietary Information, if written, shall be clearly and conspicuously marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary" or other similar notice, and, if oral or visual, shall be confirmed in writing as confidential by the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days after disclosure. Unless Proprietary Information was previously known by the Receiving Party free of any obligation to keep it confidential, or has been or is subsequently made public by an act not attributable to the

Receiving Party, or is explicitly agreed in writing not to be regarded as confidential, such information: (i) shall be held in confidence by each Receiving Party; (ii) shall be disclosed to only those persons who have a need for it in connection with the provision of services required to fulfill this Agreement and shall be used by those persons only for such purposes; and (iii) may be used for other purposes only upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to in advance of such use in writing by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a Receiving Party shall be entitled to disclose or provide Proprietary Information as required by any governmental authority or applicable law, upon advice of counsel, only in accordance with Section 18.5.b of this Agreement.

- (b) If any Receiving Party is required by any governmental authority or by applicable law to disclose any Proprietary Information, then such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible and prior to such disclosure. The Disclosing Party may then seek appropriate protective relief from all or part of such requirement. The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief which such Disclosing Party chooses to obtain.
- (c) In the event of the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, each Party shall return to the other Party or destroy all Proprietary Information and other documents, work papers and other material (including all copies thereof) obtained from the other Party in connection with this Agreement and shall use all reasonable efforts, including instructing its employees and others who have had access to such information, to keep confidential and not to use any such information, unless such information is now, or is hereafter disclosed, through no act, omission or fault of such Party, in any manner making it available to the general public.
- 17.6 Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by Federal law, where applicable, and otherwise by the domestic laws of the State of Nebraska without reference to conflict of law provisions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Parties may seek resolution of disputes under this Agreement by the FCC, the Commission, and thereafter by the Nebraska state courts or federal courts, as appropriate.
- 17.7 Taxes. Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such providing

Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation by the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to timely provide such sale for resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party.

- 17.8 Assignment. This Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties and shall continue to be binding upon all such entities regardless of any subsequent change in their ownership. Except as provided in this paragraph, neither Party may assign or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) this Agreement (or any right or obligations hereunder) to a non-affiliated party without the prior written consent of the other Party which consent will not be unreasonably withheld; provided that either Party, to the extent necessary to ensure continued application of this Agreement to the current Carrier service territory, may assign this Agreement to a corporate Affiliate or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted hereby is void *ab initio*. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.
- 17.9 Non-Waiver. Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege.
- 17.10 Notices. Notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be (i) delivered personally; (ii) delivered by express delivery service; or (iii) mailed, certified mail, return receipt requested to the following addresses of the Parties:

To: Verizon Wireless	To: Nebraska Central Telephone Company
Verizon Wireless 1300 I Street, NW Suite 400W Washington, DC 20005 Attn: Regulatory Counsel, Interconnection	Nebraska Central Telephone Company Attn: Andrew D. Jader 22 LaBarre St., P.O. Box 700 Gibbon, NE 68840

<p>With a copy to:</p> <p>Verizon Wireless 1120 Sanctuary Parkway Suite 150 Mail Code GASASICT Alpharetta, GA 30004 ATTN: Associate Director - Wireline Interconnection</p>	<p>With a copy to:</p> <p>Paul M. Schudel Woods & Aitken LLP 301 South 13th Street, Suite 500 Lincoln, NE 68508</p>
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Or to such other address as either Party shall designate by proper notice. Notices will be deemed given as of the earlier of: (i) the date of actual receipt; (ii) the next business day when notice is sent *via* overnight express mail or personal delivery; or (iii) three (3) days after mailing in the case of certified U.S. mail.

~~17.11 Publicity and Use of Trademarks or Service Marks. Neither Party nor its subcontractors or agents shall use the other Party's trademarks, service marks, logos or other proprietary trade dress in any advertising, press releases, publicity matters or other promotional materials without such Party's prior written consent.~~

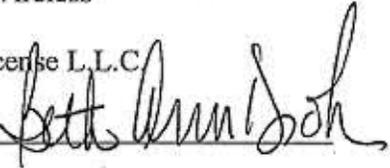
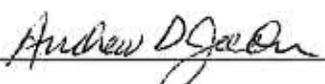
17.12 Joint Work Product. This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms. In the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

17.13 No Third Party Beneficiaries; Disclaimer of Agency. This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any third-party beneficiary rights hereunder. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a Party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party; nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against, in the name of, or on behalf of the other Party, unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no Party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

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

- 17.15 Technology Upgrades. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit either Parties' ability to upgrade its network through the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise, provided it is to industry standards, and that the Party initiating the upgrade shall provide the other Party written notice at least ninety (90) days prior to the incorporation of any such upgrade in its network which will materially impact the other Party's service. Each Party shall be solely responsible for the cost and effort of accommodating such changes in its own network.
- 17.16 Entire Agreement. The terms contained in this Agreement and any Schedules, Exhibits, tariffs and other documents or instruments referred to herein are hereby incorporated into this Agreement by reference as if set forth fully herein, and constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written. Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications. This Agreement may only be modified by a writing signed by an officer of each Party.

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

Verizon Wireless	Nebraska Central Telephone Company
<p>ALLTEL Communications of Nebraska, Inc.</p> <p>Alltel Communications, LLC</p> <p>Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless</p> <p>Cellular, Inc. Financial Corporation d/b/a Verizon Wireless</p> <p>Midwest Wireless Iowa L.L.C. By Midwest Wireless Holdings L.L.C. Its Managing Member</p>	
<p>Omaha Cellular Telephone Company d/b/a Verizon Wireless By Verizon Wireless (VAW) LLC, Its General Partner</p> <p>Sioux City MSA Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless By Cellular Inc. Network Corporation, Its General Partner</p> <p>Verizon Wireless (VAW) LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless</p> <p>WWC License L.L.C.</p> <p>By: <u></u></p> <p>Name: <u>Beth Ann Drohan</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Area Vice President - Network</u></p> <p>Date: <u>2/10/10</u></p>	<p>By: <u></u></p> <p>Name: <u>Andrew D. Jader</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Vice President-Administration</u></p> <p>Date: <u>2/16/2010</u></p>

Attachment A

Reserved for Future Use

Attachment B

Carrier Host Office Switch and Remote Office Switch Locations

Host Office – Gibbon, Nebraska

Gibbon Remotes - Ashton, Boelus, Dannebrog, Elba, Litchfield, , Ravenna, Rockville, and Shelton, Nebraska

Host Office – Burwell, Nebraska

Burwell Remotes – Ansley, Arcadia, Comstock, Ericson, Mason City, North Burwell, North Loup, Sargent, Scotia, and Taylor, Nebraska