# TELECOMMUNICATIONS TARIFF

<u>OF</u>

# **NETWORK BILLING SYSTEMS, L.L.C.**

155 Willowbrook Boulevard Wayne, New Jersey 07470

## **RESALE INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**

This Tariff contains the descriptions, regulations, and rates applicable to the furnishing of telecommunications services provided Network Billing Systems, L.L.C. ("NBS") within the State of Maine. This Tariff is on file with the Maine Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"). Copies may be inspected during normal business hours at the Company's principal place of business: 155 Willowbrook Boulevard, Wayne, New Jersey 07470.

Proposed Effective Date:

Jonathan Kaufman, Manager

Effective Date:

#### CHECK SHEET

The Sheets 1 through 17 inclusive of this Tariff are effective as of the date shown at the bottom of the respective sheets(s).

<u>SHEET</u>	<u>REVISION</u>
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## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

#### **Definitions**

- 1. "Account Code" is a numerical code, one or more of which are available to a Customer to enable identification of individual users or groups of users on an account and to allocate costs of service accordingly.
- 2. "Called Station" is the terminating point of a call (i.e., the called number).
- 3. "Carrier", "Company" or "Utility" refers to Network Billing Systems, L.L.C.
- 4. "Commission" refers to the Maine Public Utilities Commission.
- 5. "Completed" call is a call which the Company's network has determined has been answered by a person, answering machine, facsimile machine, computer modem device, or other mechanical answering device.
- 6. "Credit Card" refers to a valid bank or financial organization card, representing and account to which the costs of products and services purchased by the card holder may be charged for future payment. Such cards include those issued by VISA or MasterCard.
- 7. "Customer" means any person, firm, corporation or governmental division who has applied for and is granted service or who is responsible for payment of service.
- 8. "Dedicated Access" means access between a customer's premises and the point of presence of the Company's underlying carrier.

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#### Definitions, Continued

- 9. "Disconnect" or "Disconnection" refers to the termination of a circuit connection between the originating station and the called station or the Company's operator.
- 10. "Residential" customer is a customer who has telephone service at a dwelling and the service is used primarily for domestic or social purposes. All other customers are non-residential customers.
- 11. "Service" means any telecommunications service(s) provided by the carrier under these schedules.
- 12. "Station" is a telephone instrument consisting of a connected transmitter, receiver, and associated apparatus to permit sending or receiving telephone messages.
- 13. "Travel Card" is a card issued by Company containing such account numbers assigned to its Customer which enables the charges for calls made to be properly billed on a pre-arranged basis.
- 14. "800 Number" is an interexchange service offered pursuant to this tariff for which the called party is assigned a unique 800-NXX-XXXX or 888-NXX-XXXX or 887-NXX-XXXX number, or any other NPA, and is billed for calls terminating at that number.

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#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

#### General Description of Services Offered

- 1. These Terms and Conditions and Rate Schedules govern Company services originating and terminating at points within Maine. Specific services and rates are described in the Rate Schedules.
- 2. The Company's intrastate service territory is the State of Maine. Company services are available twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days a weeks.
- 3. Company services are available for both business and residential customers.

#### Calculation of Rates

- 1. Rates for service are based on the type of service subscribed to, calling volume and the duration of the call.
- 2. The chargeable time of a call is timed and measured by the underlying carrier. Timing of calls begins when the call is answered at the called station and is terminated when either party hangs up.
- 3. The minimum call duration for billing purposes for all services except calling card service is eighteen (18) seconds with six (6) second billing increments thereafter. Minimum call duration for calling cards is thirty (30) seconds with six (6) second billing increments.
- 4. Any portion of an applicable increment, after the appropriate minimum time for the call, will be rounded upward to the next increment. Calls less than the minimum length will be rounded to the minimum length.
- 5. There is no billing for incomplete calls.

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## Calculation of Rates, Continued

6. Upon Customer request, the Company will automatically apply a seventy (70) percent rate reduction for intrastate toll calls made from lines used by certified deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired persons who must rely on teletypewriters for residential telephone communications. To qualify for an automatic reduction, the Customer must submit an affidavit to the Company on a form approved by the Maine Department of Human Services, stating that due to one of the aforementioned conditions, he or a member of the household must rely on a teletypewriter for a telephone communications, and that the equipment is connected or acoustically coupled to his telephone. Upon request, Customers making calls to certified persons are eligible for seventy (70) rate reduction for relevant billed calls made during each billing period.

## Credit, Collection, and Dispute Resolution Procedures

- 1. Residential Customers: Petition for service, billing, payment, deposit, disconnection, dispute resolution and other credit and collection procedures for residential Customers are governed by Chapters 81 and 870 of the Maine Public Utilities Commission's Rules and Regulations.
- 2. Nonresidential Customers: Petition for service, billing, payment, deposit, disconnection, dispute resolution and other credit and collection procedures for nonresidential Customers are governed by Chapters 86 and 870 of the Maine Public Utilities Commission's Rules and Regulations.
- 3. The Company does not charge a fee to establish service.
- 4. For billing purposes, service is established on the date the Customer's local exchange carrier switches the Customer's service to the reselling Company's network.

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#### Credit, Collection, and Dispute Resolution Procedures, Continued

- 5. The Company bills charges monthly in arrears. For billing purposes, a month consists of thirty (30) days.
- 6. The Company does not charge a fee to restore service that was disconnected for non-payment of bills, violation of the Terms and Conditions, or fraudulent use of the Company's services. If Customer seeks reinstitution of service following disconnection of service by the Company, Customer shall pay to the Company prior to the time service is reinstituted all accrued and unpaid charges.
- 7. All state and local taxes (i.e., sales tax) are listed as separate line items and are not included in the rates quoted in the Rate Schedules.
- 8. The Company charges \$5.00 or the amount of the bank charge not to exceed \$15.00 for each check returned as uncollectible.
- 9. All Customer bills are due and payable when presented. The bill becomes past due no less than thirty (30) days after postmarked. Once a bill is past due, the carrier may proceed with credit and collection activities per Chapter 81 or 860, and a late payment calculated at a rate not to exceed the rate specified in Chapter 870, as updated annually by the Commission's Director of Finance.

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#### Credit, Collection, and Dispute Resolution Procedures, Continued

10. Customer complaints are handled by a full service customer service department. Customers may call (888) 301-1721 twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week, or submit a written complaint to:

Network Billing Systems, L.L.C. 155 Willowbrook Boulevard Wayne, New Jersey 07470

If the Customer is not satisfied with the Company's response, the Customer may contact the Consumer Assistance Division of the Maine Public Utilities Commission, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04333-0018. Telephone: (800) 452-4699 or (207) 287-3831.

#### Interruption of Service/Liability

- 1. The Company will attempt to provide continuous and uninterrupted service. When the Company schedules a service interruption for maintenance or repairs, the Company will notify Customers of the cause and expected duration of the interruption at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance, when possible.
- 2. The Company's liability for damages arising out of mistakes, interruptions, omissions, delays, errors, or defects in the transmission occurring in furnishing service or in Company facilities, and not caused by the negligence of its employees or agents, will not exceed the amount that the Company would have charged the Customer for service for the period the aforementioned faults occur.

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#### Interruption of Service/Liability, Continued

- 3. Upon Customer request, the Company will credit a Customer's account for service interruptions which are not due to the Company's testing or adjusting, negligence of the Customer, or to the failure of channels or equipment provided by the Customer. Before requesting a credit, the Customer will take reasonable steps to verify that the trouble could not have been prevented by the Customer and is not in the Customer's wiring or equipment. For purposes of computing a credit for leased facilities, a month consists of 720 hours. The Company will credit the Customer's account at the rate of 1/720th of the monthly charge for the facilities affected for each full hour of the interruption.
- 4. The Company is protected against Customer claims for libel, slander, or copyright infringement arising from the material, data, information, or other content transmitted using Company services. The Company is protected against all other claims arising from any act or omission of the customer while using Company services.
- 5. Any provisions that limit liability or damages do not apply to the extent they conflict with Maine Statute, 11 M.R.S.A. 2-316(5), Exclusion or Modification of Warranties.

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#### RATE SCHEDULES

#### Description of Services

- 1. <u>Dial Access Service</u> is a switched or dedicated access service, offering users outbound "1 plus" long distance telecommunications services from points originating and terminating in the State of Maine.
- 2. <u>800 Service</u> is a switched or dedicated access service, offering users inbound, toll free "800" number, long distance telecommunications services from points originating and terminating in the State of Maine. This service enables the caller to contact the Customer without incurring toll charges, through the use of an assigned "800" number. The Customer pays for the call.
- 3. <u>Travel Card Service</u> permits the caller to charge the principal presubscribed location for a call while the caller is away from the principal location. The Customer may place calls from any touch tone phone in the U.S. by dialing a toll free "800" number and entering a personal identification code, followed by the desired telephone number. Calling card calls are billed at the Applicant's tariffed rates and appear on the Customer's monthly long-distance bill.

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#### Description of Services, Continued

#### 4. <u>Promotions</u>

The Company may, from time to time, engage in special promotions of new or existing Service offerings of limited duration designed to attract new Customers or to increase existing Customer awareness of a particular offering. The promotional offerings are subject to the availability of the Services and may be limited to a specific geographical area or to a subset of a specific market group; provided, however, all promotional offerings shall be offered in accordance with applicable Commission rules or regulations.

#### 5. <u>Rate Groups</u>

Rates are offered for each service based on rate group.

Group A

All switched access residential customers and switched access business customers with monthly billing volume of \$0 to \$500.

#### Group B

All switched access business customers with monthly billing volume of \$500 to \$1,000 and dedicated access business customers with monthly billing volume less than \$5,000.

## Group C

All switched access business customers with monthly billing volume above \$1,000 and dedicated access business customers with monthly billing volume over \$5,000.

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# Rates for Services

Service charges per account are based on the following schedules:

# 1. <u>Switched Access Services</u>

A. Dial Access Service

Rate Group	Initial 18 seconds	Additional 6 seconds
Group A	\$.0723	\$.0241
<u>Group B</u>	\$.0675	\$.0225
<u>Group C</u>	\$.0633	\$.0211

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# Rates for Services, Continued

- 1. <u>Switched Access Services</u>, Continued
  - B. Direct Access 800 Service

Rate Group	Initial 18 seconds	Additional 6 seconds
Group A	\$.0723	\$.0241
<u>Group B</u>	\$.0675	\$.0225
Group C	\$.0633	\$.0211

A recurring monthly charge of \$2.00 is billed for each inbound "800" number.

A \$.30 surcharge will apply to all calls initiated from a pay telephone.

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Rates for Services, Continued

#### 2. <u>Dedicated Access Services</u>

Dedicated access services are designed for Customers with high traffic volumes, whose traffic volumes justify the additional costs of dedicated access facilities. Customers must experience a minimum of \$3,000.00 of monthly calling to qualify for dedicated access services. Dedicated facilities may be provided by the Customer or through the Company and are billed by the underlying local service provider under its access tariffs.

# A. Dedicated Dial Access Service

Rate Group	Initial 18 seconds	Additional 6 seconds
<u>Group A</u>	N/A	N/A
<u>Group B</u>	\$.0360	\$.0120
<u>Group C</u>	\$.0339	\$.0113

Access coordination fee, if applicable -- \$450.00 Central Office connection fee, if applicable -- \$1,500 per exchange Entrance facilities charge, if applicable -- \$175.00 per month

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## Rates for Services, Continued

# 2. <u>Dedicated Access Services, Continued</u>

B. Dedicated Access 800 Service

Rate Group	Initial 18 seconds	Additional 6 seconds
Group A	N/A	N/A
<u>Group B</u>	\$.0360	\$.0120
Group C	\$.0339	\$.0113

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# Rates for Services, Continued

3. <u>Travel Card Service</u>, Continued

Calling card charges are billed in six (6) second increments with a thirty (30) second minimum per call.

Rate Group	Initial 30 seconds	Additional 6 seconds
Group A	\$.125	\$.025
Group B	\$.095	\$.019
<u>Group C</u>	\$.085	\$.017

A \$.35 surcharge will apply to all calls initiated from a pay telephone.

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#### Rates for Services, Continued

#### 4. <u>Access Surcharge</u>

5.

An Access Surcharge will apply to each presubscribed line on a Customer's account.

PICC – Business Customers PICC – Residential Customers	\$2.75 \$0.53
Service Line Charge	
On gross total billed charges	3.91%

**Directory Assistance** 

The Company provides Directory Assistance as an ancillary service exclusively to its customers. Directory Assistance is accessible by dialing "1", the area code of the desired number and "555-1212".

Directory Assistance, per call

\$.85

# 6. <u>Individual Case Basis (ICB) Arrangements</u>

Arrangements will be developed on a case-by-case basis in response to a bona fide request from a Customer or prospective Customer to develop a competitive bid for a Service offered under this Tariff. Rates quoted in response to such competitive requests may be different than those specified for such Services in this Tariff. ICB rates will be offered to the Customer in writing and on a non-discriminatory basis.

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