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Attachment 4
INTERCONNECTION

INTERCONNECTION

Section 1. Definitions

1.1 "Interconnection" is the linking of the USWC and MCIm networks for the mutual exchange of traffic. Interconnection does not include the transport and termination of traffic. Interconnection is provided by virtual or physical collocation, entrance facilities or meet point arrangements.

1.2 "Point of Interface" or "POI" means the physical point that establishes the technical interface, the test point, and the operational responsibility hand-off between MCIm and USWC for the local interconnection of their networks.

Section 2. General Description

2.1 Interconnection shall be available upon MCIm's request at any technically feasible point in USWC's network. Such points may include, but not be limited to, a Meet Point, end offices, local tandems, access tandems, serving wire centers, building telco closets, and any other cross-connection points, the line side distribution frame of the local switch, the trunk side distribution frame of the local switch, trunk interconnection points of the tandem switch, central office cross-connect points, and signaling transfer points necessary to exchange traffic and access call related databases. Such interconnection will contain all the same features, functions, and capabilities, and be at least equal in quality to that provided by USWC to itself or its Affiliates**.** Requests for interconnection shall be presumed to be technically feasible. USWC shall have the full burden of disproving this presumption**.**

2.2 MCIm shall establish a IP in each local calling area in which it is delivering and receiving local traffic. MCIm may establish the IP in a particular calling area through the use of its own facilities or through the lease of facilities from other providers, including the purchase of unbundled network elements from USWC. USWC may not require nor prevent MCIm from establishing more than one IP in each local calling area served by MCIm. MCIm will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. If and when the Parties choose to interconnect at a mid-span meet, MCIm and USWC will jointly provision the fiber optic facilities that connect the two (2) networks and shall share the financial and other responsibilities for that facility. In determining the Mid-Span Meet-Point, it shall be considered as being at the half-way point between the location of the Parties, unless a different Meet Point is mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

2.3 MCIm may request, through the BFR Process set forth in the General Section of this Agreement, a "non-standard" technically feasible interconnection arrangement. MCIm must compensate USWC for any non-standard arrangements USWC constructs on behalf of MCIm. The parties will negotiate the interconnection arrangements and the prices USWC will charge for non-standard facilities constructed by USWC on behalf of MCIm.

2.4 Within ten (10) business days of MCIm's request for any POI, USWC shall provide any information in its possession or available to it regarding the environmental conditions of the interconnection route or location including, but not limited to, the existence and condition of asbestos, lead paint, hazardous substance contamination, or radon. Information is considered "available" under this Agreement if it is in USWC's possession, or in the possession of a current or former agent, contractor, employee, lessor, or tenant of USWC's.

2.5 USWC shall allow MCIm to perform any environmental site investigations, including, but not limited to, asbestos surveys, MCIm deems to be necessary in support of its collocation needs. MCIm shall advise USWC in writing of its intent to conduct any such investigations, and shall receive written approval from USWC to proceed with the investigation, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. MCIm shall indemnify USWC in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the General Section of this

Agreement for any loss or claim for damage suffered by USWC as a result of MCIm's actions during any site inspection.

Section 3. Location of Interconnection

3.1 MCIm will be responsible for implementing and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. USWC will be responsible for implementing and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. If and when the Parties choose to interconnect at a Meet Point, MCIm and USWC will jointly provision the fiber optic facilities that connect the two (2) networks and shall proportionately share the financial and other responsibilities for that facility based on the reasonably negotiated Meet Point percentage.

3.2 If interconnection is complicated by the presence of environmental contamination or hazardous materials, and an alternative route is available, USWC shall make such alternative route available for MCIm's consideration.

Section 4. Collocation

4.1 Interconnection may be accomplished through either virtual or physical collocation. The terms and conditions under which collocation will be available are described in Attachment 5 to this Agreement.

Section 5. Entrance Facility

5.1 Interconnection may be accomplished using an entrance facility without the need for collocation. An entrance facility extends from the Point of Interconnection to a point within a USWC central office.

Section 6. Quality of Interconnection

6.1 USWC will not, for the purpose of interconnection, provide to MCIm less favorable terms and conditions than it provides itself or any other Person or in a manner less efficient than it would impose on itself or any other Person. The quality of interconnection will be at least equal to that USWC provides to itself or any other Person. To the extent that MCIm requests higher or lower quality interconnection, MCIm agrees to use the Bona Fide Request Process described in this Agreement.

Section 7. Points of Interconnection

7.1 Upon the request for specific point to point routing, USWC will make available to MCIm information indicating the location and technical characteristics of USWC's network facilities. The following alternatives are negotiable and include, but are not limited to: (a) a DS-1 or DS-3 entrance facility, where facilities are available (where facilities are not available and USWC is required to build special or additional facilities, special construction charges may apply); (b) virtual collocation; (c) physical collocation; and (d) negotiated Meet Point facilities. Each Party is responsible for providing its own facilities up to the Meet Point. The Parties will negotiate the facilities arrangement between their networks.

Section 8. Trunking Requirements

8.1 USWC agrees to provide designed interconnection facilities that meet the same industry standards for technical criteria and service standards, such as probability of blocking in peak hours and transmission standards.

8.2 The Parties shall initially reciprocally terminate local exchange traffic and intraLATA/interLATA toll calls originating on each other's networks as follows:

8.2.1 There shall be no restrictions on traffic types carried. Until the access structure is revised, to accommodate non-segregated traffic, pursuant to rules promulgated by the FCC or the Commission, two-way trunk groups will be established wherever practical, based upon MCIm's request. Exceptions to this provision will not be based on technical infeasibility, but will be based on billing, signaling, and network requirements. For example, exceptions include: (a) billing requirements - switched access vs. local traffic, (b) signaling requirements - MF vs. SS7, (c) network requirements - directory assistance traffic to TOPS tandems, and (d) one-way trunks for 911/E911. The following is the current list of traffic types that require separate trunk groups, unless otherwise specifically stated in this Agreement:

(a) IntraLATA toll and interLATA switched access trunks
(b) EAS/local trunks
(c) Directory Assistance trunks
(d) 911/E911 trunks
(e) Operator services trunks
(f) Non-USWC toll (transit toll to other providers)
(g) Non-USWC local (transit local to other providers)
(h) Commercial Mobile Radio Service/Wireless traffic

8.3 Separate trunk groups will be established connecting MCIm's switch or MCIm's operator service center to USWC's operator service center for operator-assisted busy line interrupt/verify. For traffic from the USWC network to MCIm for Operator Services, USWC will provide one (1) trunk group per LATA served by the local USWC switch.

8.4 Trunk Servicing

8.4.1 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 for local service ordering.

8.4.2 As further described in this Agreement, both Parties will jointly manage the capacity of Local Interconnection Trunk Groups. USWC's Trunk Servicing Group will send a Trunk Group Service Request (TGSR), or another industry standard eventually adopted to replace the TGSR, to MCIm to trigger changes USWC desires to the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups based on USWC's capacity assessment. MCIm will issue an ASR or other industry ordering standard to USWC:

(a) Wwithin ten (10) business days after receipt of the TGSR, upon review of and in response to USWC's TGSR, or

(b) Aat any time, as a result of MCIm's own capacity management assessment, to begin the provisioning process. The interval used for the provisioning of Local Interconnection Trunk Groups shall be no longer than the standard interval for the provisioning of USWC's Switched Access service and shall be consistent with USWC's actual provisioning intervals for its own Switched Access customers.

8.4.3 USWC will attempt to meet MCIm's requested due date for the provision of Local Interconnect Trunk Groups. Where the installation of Local Interconnection Trunk Groups is required within a time that is shorter than the standard interval, the Parties will make all reasonable efforts and cooperate in good faith to ensure that the mutually agreed upon due date is met.

8.4.4 Orders that comprise a major project may be submitted at the same time, in which case their implementation shall be jointly planned and coordinated. Major projects are those that require the coordination and execution of multiple orders or related activities between and among USWC and MCIm work groups, including, but not limited to, the initial establishment of Local Interconnection or Meet Point trunk groups and service in an area, NXX code moves, re-homes, facility grooming, or network rearrangements.

8.5 Trunking Requirements

8.5.1 Trunk group connections will be made at a DS-1 or multiple DS-1 level for exchange of EAS/local, intraLATA toll, wireless/Commercial Mobile Radio Service, and switched access traffic. Ancillary service trunk groups will be made below a DS-1 level, as negotiated.

8.5.2 Where CCS is not available, in-band multi-frequency (MF) wink start signaling will be provided. This MF arrangement will require a separate Local Trunk Circuit between MCIm's switch and USWC's tandems. Reference Technical Pub. TR-314 and TR394.

Section 9. Service Interruptions

9.1 Standards and procedures for notification of trunk disconnects will be jointly developed by the Parties within ninety (90) days of the Effective Date of this Agreement. Neither Party shall be expected to maintain active status for a trunk disconnected by the other Party for an extended or indefinite period of time.

9.2 The characteristics and methods of operation of any circuits, facilities or equipment of either Party connected with the services, facilities or equipment of the other Party pursuant to this Agreement shall not: (a) interfere with or impair service over any facilities of the other Party, its Affiliates, or its connecting and concurring carriers involved in its services; (b) cause damage to the other Party's plant; (c) violate any applicable law or regulation regarding the invasion of privacy of any communications carried over the Party's facilities; or (d) create hazards to the employees of either Party or to the public. Each of these requirements is hereinafter referred to as an "Impairment of Service."

9.3 Each Party shall be solely responsible for, and bear the expense of, the overall design of its services. Each Party shall also be responsible for any redesign or rearrangement of its services that may be required because of changes in facilities, operations or procedures, minimum network protection criteria, and operating or maintenance characteristics of the facilities. If one Party creates a circumstance causing additional costs to the other Party, the other Party may collect construction charges from the first Party.

9.4 To facilitate trouble reporting and to coordinate the repair of the service provided by each Party to the other under this Agreement, each Party shall designate and define a Trouble Reporting Control Office (TRCO) for such service. Each Party shall furnish a trouble reporting telephone number for the designated TRCO. This number shall have access to the location where facility records are normally located and where current status reports on any trouble reports are readily available. Current and historical trouble reports will be made available, if necessary. Alternative out-of-hours procedures shall be established to ensure access to a location that is staffed and has the authority to initiate corrective action.

9.5 Where new facilities, services and arrangements are installed to rectify the service interruption, the TRCO shall ensure that continuity exists and take appropriate transmission measurements before advising the other Party that the new circuit is ready for service.

9.6 The Parties shall cooperate in isolating trouble conditions. Before either Party reports a trouble condition, it shall use reasonable efforts to isolate the trouble.

9.7 In cases where a trouble condition affects a significant portion of the other Party's service, the Parties shall assign the same priority provided to other interconnecting carriers.

Section 10. Forecasting

10.1 The Parties agree that during the first year of interconnection, joint forecasting and planning meetings will take place no less frequently than once per quarter.

10.2 The Parties shall establish joint forecasting responsibilities for traffic utilization over trunk groups. Intercompany forecast information must be provided by the Parties to each other four (4) times a year. The quarterly forecasts shall include forecasted requirements for each trunk group identified in Paragraph 8.2.1 of this Attachment. In addition, for tandem-switched traffic, the forecast shall include the quantity of tandem-switched traffic forecasted for each subtending end office. The Parties recognize that, to the extent historical traffic data can be shared between the Parties, the accuracy of the forecasts will improve. Forecasts shall be for a minimum of three (current and plus-1 and plus-2) years and shall include:

10.2.1 the use of Common Language Location Identifier (CLLI-MSG), which are described in Bellcore documents BR 795-100-100 and BR 795-400-100; and

10.2.2 a description of major network projects anticipated for the following six (6) months that could affect the other Party. Major network projects include trunking or network rearrangements, shifts in anticipated traffic patterns, or other activities that are reflected by a significant increase or decrease in trunking demand for the following forecasting period. This planning will include the issues of network capacity, forecasting and compensation calculation, where appropriate.

10.2.3 If forecasts vary significantly, the Parties shall meet to review and reconcile such forecasts.

(a) If the Parties are unable to reach such a reconciliation, the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups shall be provisioned to the higher forecast. At the end of three (3) months, the utilization of the Local Interconnection Trunk Groups will be reviewed and if the average CCS utilization for the third month is under seventy five percent (75%) of capacity, either Party may issue an order to resize the trunk group, which shall be left with not less than twenty five percent (25%) excess capacity.

(b) If the Parties agree on the original forecast and then it is determined that a trunk group is under seventy five percent (75%) of CCS capacity on a monthly-average basis for each month of any three-month period, either Party may issue an order to resize the trunk group, which shall be left with not less than twenty five percent (25%) excess capacity. In all cases, grade of service objectives identified in this Agreement shall be maintained.

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

10.4 Trunking can be established to tandems or end offices or a combination of both via either one-way or two-way trunks. Trunking will be at the DS-0 level, DS-1 level, DS-3 level, or any other technically feasible level, subject to network disclosure requirements of the FCC. Initial trunking will be established between MCIm's switching centers and USWC's access tandem(s). The Parties will utilize direct end office trunking under the following conditions:

10.4.1 Tandem exhaust - If a tandem through which the Parties are interconnected is unable to, or is forecasted to be unable to, support additional traffic loads for any period of time, the Parties

will mutually agree on an end office trunking plan that will alleviate the tandem capacity shortage and ensure completion of traffic between MCIm and USWC subscribers.

10.4.2 Traffic volume - The Parties shall install and retain direct end office trunking sufficient to handle actual or reasonably forecasted traffic volumes, whichever is greater, between an MCIm switching center and a USWC end office where the local traffic exceeds or is forecasted to exceed 512 CCS at the busy hour.

10.4.3 Mutual agreement - The Parties may install direct end office trunking upon mutual agreement in the absence of conditions (1) or (2) above and such agreement will not unreasonably be withheld.

10.5 Grade of Service

A blocking standard of one percent (1%) during the average busy hour, as defined by each Party's standards, for final trunk groups between an MCIm end office and a USWC 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 (1%). Direct end office trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (1%).

Section 11. Signaling

11.1 Signaling protocol. The Parties will interconnect their networks using SS7 signaling as defined in GR-317 and GR-394, 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 appropriate industry standards for signaling interoperability will be followed.

11.2 The Parties will provide CCS to each other in conjunction with all trunk groups supporting local, transit, and toll traffic. The Parties will cooperate on the exchange of TCAP messages to facilitate full interoperability of CCS-based features between their respective networks, including all CLASS features and functions. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided, including automatic number identification (ANI), originating line information (OLI), calling party category, charge number, etc. For terminating FGD, the Parties will pass CPN if it receives CPN from FGD carriers. All privacy indicators will be honored. Where available, network signaling information such as Transit Network Selection ("TNS") parameter (CCS platform) and CIC/OZZ information (non-CCS environment) will be provided by the Parties wherever such information is needed for call routing or billing. The Parties will follow all appropriate industry standards pertaining to TNS and CIC/OZZ codes.

11.3 Standard interconnection facilities shall be Extended Superframe (ESF) with B8ZS line code. Where ESF/B8ZS is not available, MCIm will agree to using other interconnection protocols on an interim basis until the standard ESF/B8ZS is available. USWC will provide anticipated dates of availability for those areas not currently ESF/B8ZS compatible.

11.4 Where MCIm is unwilling to utilize an alternate interconnection protocol, MCIm will provide USWC an initial forecast of 64 Kbps Clear Channel Capability ("64K CCC") trunk quantities within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date of this Agreement consistent with the forecasting agreements between the Parties. Upon receipt of this forecast, the Parties will begin joint planning for the engineering, procurement, and installation of the designated 64K CCC Local Interconnection Trunk Groups and the associated B8ZS Extended Super Frame ("ESF") facilities, for the purpose of transmitting 64K CCC data calls between MCIm and USWC. Where additional equipment is required, such equipment will be obtained, engineered, and installed on the same basis and with the same intervals as any similar growth job for an IXC, MCIm or

USWC internal customer demand for 64K CCC trunks. Where technically feasible, these trunks will be established as two-way.

Section 12. Ordering

12.1 MCIm may order interconnection points beyond those listed in the FCC rules using the access service request (ASR) process or other industry standard for local service ordering.

12.2 USWC must provide installation to MCIm in the shorter of the time it provides installation to itself or any other Person. USWC must provide installation to MCIm within a time period that is no longer than the expected period of time for the most similar current mode of interconnection used by USWC ~~ten (10) business days~~ if it does not provide the same installation to itself or any other Person.

12.3 If MCIm requests a shorter installation time than required by the provisions of this Attachment, USWC may charge MCIm for any increased expense incurred for such installation.

Section 13. Network Management

13.1 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.

13.2 Rerouting 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. Rerouting controls will only be used when mutually agreed to by the Parties.

13.3 Mass Calling

MCIm and USWC shall cooperate and share pre-planning information, where available and in compliance with federal and state regulations, 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. Furthermore, INP numbers may only be used consistent with network efficiency and integrity, *i.e.*, inhibitions on mass calling events.

Section 14. Usage Measurement

14.1 When applicable, each Party shall provide to the other:

14.1.1 Bellcore AMA formatted records to generate bills to the other Party;

14.1.2 measurement of minutes of use over Local Interconnection Trunk groups in actual conversation seconds. The total conversation seconds over each individual Local Interconnection Trunk Group will be totaled for the entire monthly bill-round and then rounded to the next whole minute; and

14.1.3 within twenty (20) calendar days after the end of each quarter (commencing with the first full quarter after the Effective Date of this Agreement), a usage report with the total traffic volume

described in terms of minutes and messages and by call type (local, toll, and other) terminated to each other over SS7 Local Interconnection Trunk Groups.

Section 15. Interconnection to Network Elements

15.1 Technical Requirements

15.1.1 When requested by MCIm, USWC shall provide interconnections between the USWC Network Elements provided to MCIm and MCIm's network at transmission rates designated by MCIm.

15.1.2 Traffic shall be combined and routed as follows:

(a) USWC shall provide direct trunks for intraLATA traffic (except 911, directory assistance, operator services, and other services that may require special routing) and, at MCIm's request, USWC shall allow MCIm to route such traffic either directly to a USWC tandem or directly to a USWC end-office. The Parties agree to investigate a process to accomplish this.

(b) At MCIm's request, USWC shall receive MCIm traffic destined to the USWC Operator Systems Network Element, on trunks from an MCIm end-office or an MCIm tandem.

(c) At MCIm's request, USWC shall receive MCIm CAMA-ANI (Centralized Automatic Message Accounting - Automatic Number identification) traffic destined to the USWC 911 PSAPs, or E911 tandems, on trunks from an MCIm end-office.

(d) At MCIm's request, USWC shall receive MCIm SS7 traffic destined to any USWC E911 tandem on trunks from an MCIm end-office.

15.1.3 When requested by MCIm and a third party carrier, USWC shall provide interconnections between MCIm's network, and the other carrier's network through the USWC network at transmission rates designated by MCIm, including, but not limited to, DS-1, DS-3, and STS-1. USWC shall combine and route traffic to and from other local carriers and interLATA carriers through the USWC network, and, at MCIm's request, USWC shall record and keep records of such traffic for MCIm billing purposes to the extent possible.

15.1.4 USWC shall provide two-way trunk groups for interconnections. At MCIm's request, USWC shall provide unidirectional traffic on such trunks, in either direction, effectively operating them as if they were one-way trunk groups.

15.1.5 USWC shall provision trunks without restricting MCIm, except as expressly provided within this Agreement~~any user restrictions~~ (*e.g.*, option for two-way trunking, and no unnecessary trunk group fragmentation by traffic types).

15.1.6 All trunking provided by USWC shall adhere to the applicable performance requirements set forth in the "General Performance Requirements" section of this Agreement.

15.1.7 At MCIm's request, USWC shall provide for overflow routing from a given trunk group or groups onto another trunk group or groups as MCIm designates.

15.1.8 USWC and MCIm shall agree on the establishment of two-way trunk groups for the exchange of traffic for other IXCs. These trunk groups can be provided in a "meet point" arrangement.

15.1.9 Interconnection shall be made available upon MCIm's request at any technically feasible point of interface. All trunk interconnections shall be provided, including, SS7, MF, DTMF, DialPulse, PRI-ISDN (where available), DID (Direct Inward Dialing), CAMA-ANI, and trunking necessary so that interim NP can be provided.

15.2 Trunk Interface Requirements

15.2.1 911/E911 Trunks

(a) USWC shall allow MCIm to provide direct trunking to each USWC 911 serving end office, or USWC E911 tandem, as is appropriate for the applicable serving area. These trunks are to be provided as one-way trunks from a given MCIm end office to the USWC 911 end-office or tandem.

(b) USWC shall provide for overflow 911 traffic in the same manner that USWC provides 911 overflow for itself.

15.2.2 S911 Trunks

If and when S911 tandems become available, USWC shall allow MCIm to provide direct trunking to each USWC S911 tandem. Such SS7 trunks are to be provided as one-way trunks from a given MCIm end-office to the USWC S911 tandem.

15.2.3 Local Switch and Access Tandem Trunks

(a) USWC shall provide trunks groups provisioned exclusively to carry intraLATA toll traffic, as designated by MCIm.

(b) USWC shall provide trunk groups provisioned exclusively to carry interLATA traffic, as designated by MCIm.

(c) USWC shall provide SS7 trunks which provide SS7 interconnection. At MCIm's request, MF trunks may be substituted for SS7 trunks where applicable.

(d) USWC shall simultaneous route calls based on dialed digits (in accordance with the standard GR-317-CORE), and Carrier Identification Code (in accordance with the standard GR-394-CORE) over a single SS7 trunk group.

15.2.4 USWC Operator Services Trunk

(a) For traffic from the USWC network to MCIm for Operator Services, USWC shall provide one (1) trunk group per NPA served by the local USWC switch.

(b) USWC shall provide such trunks as one-way trunks from the USWC network to the MCIm network.

15.3 Network Interconnection between USWC and MCIm shall meet or exceed all of the requirements for Network Interconnection set forth in the following technical references:

15.3.1 GR-317-CORE, Switching System generic requirements for Call Control Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part (ISDNUP), Bellcore, February 1994;

15.3.2 GR-394-CORE, Switching System generic requirements for Interexchange Carrier Interconnection Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part (ISDNUP), Bellcore, February 1994;

15.3.3 FR-NWT-000271, OSSGR Operator Services Systems generic requirements, Bellcore, 1994 Edition; and

15.3.4 FR-NWT-000064, LATA Switching Systems Generic Requirements (LSSGR), Bellcore, 1994 Edition.

Section 16. Reciprocal Traffic Exchange

16.1~~2~~ Responsibilities Of The Parties 16.1 ?

16.2.1 USWC and MCIm agree to treat each other fairly, nondiscriminatorily, and equally for all items included in this Agreement, or related to the support of items included in this Agreement.

16.2.2 MCIm and USWC agree to exchange such reports and/or data as provided in this Agreement to facilitate the proper billing of traffic. Either Party may request an audit of such usage reports on no fewer than ten (10) business days' written notice and any audit shall be accomplished during normal business hours at the office of the Party being audited. Such audit must be performed by a mutually agreed to independent auditor paid for by the Party requesting the audit and may include review of the data described in this Agreement with respect to the reciprocal exchange of traffic. Such audits shall be requested within six (6) months of having received the PLU factor and usage reports from the other Party.

16.2.3 MCIm and USWC will review engineering requirements on a semi-annual basis and establish forecasts for trunk and facilities utilization provided under this Agreement. USWC and MCIm will work together to begin providing these forecasts within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement. New trunk groups will be implemented as dictated by engineering requirements for either USWC or MCIm.

16.2.4 MCIm and USWC shall share responsibility for all Control Office functions for Local Interconnection Trunks and Trunk Groups, and both Parties shall share the overall coordination, installation, and maintenance responsibilities for these trunks and trunk groups.

16.2.5 MCIm is responsible for all Control Office functions for the Meet Point trunking arrangement trunks and trunk groups, and shall be responsible for the overall coordination, installation, and maintenance responsibilities for these trunks and trunk groups.

16.2.6 MCIm and USWC shall:

16.2.6.1 provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians;

16.2.6.2 notify each other when there is any change affecting the service requested, including the due date;

16.2.6.3 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;

16.2.6.4 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 the other Party;

16.2.6.5 advise each other's Control Office if there is an equipment failure which may affect the interconnection trunks;

16.2.6.6 provide each other with a trouble reporting/repair contact number that is readily accessible and available twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week. Any changes to this contact arrangement must be immediately provided to the other Party;

16.2.6.7 provide to each other test-line numbers and access to test lines; and

16.2.6.8 cooperatively plan and implement coordinated repair procedures for the Meet Point and Local Interconnection Trunks and facilities to ensure trouble reports are resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.

16.3 MCIm may purchase tandem switching service from USWC for the delivery of local exchange calls from MCIm to another CLEC.

Section 17. Busy Line Verify And Interrupt

17.1 Description

17.1.1 Each Party shall establish procedures whereby its operator bureau will coordinate with the operator bureau of the other Party in order to provide Busy Line Verification ("BLV") and Busy Line Verification and Interrupt ("BLVI") services on calls between their respective end users on or before the Effective Date of this Agreement.

17.1.2 At the request of MCIm operators or customers, USWC operators will perform Busy Line Verify and/or Busy Line Interrupt operations where such capability exists.

17.2 Compensation

Each Party shall charge the other Party for BLV and BLVI at rates specified in Attachment 1 to this Agreement.

17.3 If MCIm requires Busy Line Verification and Emergency Line Interrupt ("BLV/ELI") functionality beyond that described in this Section, such as for connection of its Local Operator Service to USWC's ~~USWC shall permit MCIm to connect its Local Operator Service to USWC's Busy Line Verification and Emergency Line Interrupt~~ ("BLV/ELI") systems and databases to enable MCIm to perform BLV/ELI services. ~~,~~ MCIm shall use the BFR process to request such functionality.

17.4 USWC shall engineer its BLV/ELI facilities to accommodate the anticipated volume of BLV/ELI requests during the Busy Hour. MCIm may, from time to time, provide its anticipated volume of BLV/ELI requests to USWC. In those instances when the BLV/ELI systems and databases become unavailable, USWC shall promptly Inform MCIm.

17.5 Where INP is deployed and when a BLV/BLI request for a ported number is directed to an USWC operator and the query is not successful (*i.e.*, the request yields an abnormal result), the operator shall confirm whether the number has been ported and shall direct the request to the appropriate operator.