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Attachment 7
NUMBER PORTABILITY

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Section 1. USWC Provision of Number Portability

USWC shall provide number portability in accordance with requirements of the Act and FCC rules and regulations. Currently available interim number portability ("INP") shall be provided by USWC to MCIm in accordance with FCC rules and regulations. INP shall be provided with minimum impairment of functionality, quality, reliability and convenience to subscribers of MCIm services.

Section 2. Interim Number Portability (INP)

2.1 General Terms

2.1.1 The Parties shall provide Interim Number Portability (INP) on a reciprocal basis to the extent technically feasible.

2.1.2 Until permanent number portability is implemented by the industry pursuant to regulations issued by the FCC or the Commission, the Parties agree to provide INP to each other through Remote Call Forwarding, Direct Inward Dialing, or other appropriate means as agreed to by the Parties.

2.1.3 Once permanent number portability is implemented pursuant to FCC or Commission regulation, either Party may withdraw, at any time and at its sole discretion, its INP offerings, subject to advance notice to the other Party with sufficient time to allow for coordination to allow the seamless and transparent conversion of INP customer numbers to permanent number portability. Upon implementation of permanent number portability pursuant to FCC regulations, both Parties agree to conform and provide such permanent number portability. The Parties agree to expeditiously convert customers from interim number portability to permanent number portability, provided that the interim service is not removed until the customer has been converted.

2.1.4 USWC will update and maintain its Line Information Database ("LIDB") listings for numbers retained by the MCIm and its customers, and restrict or cancel calling cards associated with these forwarded numbers as directed by MCIm. Further, USWC will not block third party and collect calls to those numbers unless requested by the MCIm.

2.1.5 The ordering Party shall specify on a per telephone number basis which method of INP is to be employed and the providing Party shall provide such method to the extent technically feasible.

2.2 Where either Party has activated an entire NXX, or activated a substantial portion of an NXX with the remaining numbers in that NXX either reserved for future use or otherwise unused, if the customer(s) using the numbers within such NXX choose to receive service from the other Party, the first Party shall cooperate with the second Party to have the entire NXX reassigned in the LERG (and associated industry databases, routing tables, etc.) to an End Office operated by the second Party. Such transfer will be accomplished with appropriate coordination between the Parties and subject to appropriate industry lead-times for movement of NXXs from one switch to another.

2.3 Description Of Service

2.3.1 Interim Number Portability Service ("INP") is a service arrangement that can be provided by USWC to MCIm or by MCIm to USWC.

2.3.2 Interim Number Portability (INP) applies to those situations where an end-user customer elects to change service providers, and such customer also wishes to retain its existing or reserved telephone number(s). INP consists of providing the capability to route calls placed to telephone numbers assigned to one Party's switches to another Party's switches.

2.3.3 INP is available as INP-Remote Call Forwarding ("INP-RCF") permitting a call to a USWC assigned telephone number to be translated to MCIm's dialable local number. MCIm may terminate the call as desired. Additional capacity for simultaneous call forwarding is available where technically feasible on a per path basis. MCIm will need to specify the number of simultaneous calls to be forwarded for each number ported.

2.3.4 DID is another INP method that makes use of direct inward dialing trunks. Each DID trunk group used for INP is dedicated to carrying DID INP traffic between the USWC end office and the MCIm switch. Traffic on these trunks cannot overflow to other trunks, so the number of trunks shall be conservatively engineered by USWC. Also, inter-switch signaling is usually limited to multi-frequency (MF). This precludes passing Calling Line ID to the MCIm switch.

2.3.5 RI-PH will route a dialed call to the USWC switch associated with the NXX of the dialed number. The USWC switch shall then insert a prefix onto the dialed number which identifies how the call is to be routed to MCIm. The prefixed dialed number is transmitted to the USWC tandem switch to which MCIm is connected. Route indexing is only available with seven digit local dialing.

2.3.6 The prefix is removed by the operation of the tandem switch and the dialed number is routed to MCIm's switch so the routing of the call can be completed by MCIm.

2.3.6.1 DN-RI is a form of RI-PH that requires direct trunking between the USWC switch to which the ported number was originally assigned and the MCIm switch to which the number has been ported. The USWC switch shall send the originally dialed number to the MCIm switch without a prefix.

2.3.6.2 USWC shall provide RI-PH or DN-RI on an individual telephone number basis, as designated by MCIm. Where technically feasible, calls to ported numbers are first directed to the MCIm switch over direct trunks but may overflow to tandem trunks if all trunks in the direct group are occupied.

2.3.6.3 For both RI-PH and DN-RI the trunks used may, at MCIm's option, be the same as those used for exchange of other local traffic with USWC. At MCIm's option, the trunks shall employ SS7 or in band signaling and may be one way or two way.

2.3.7 INP is subject to the following restrictions:

2.3.7.1 An INP telephone number may be assigned by MCIm only to MCIm's customers located within USWC's local calling area and toll rating area associated with the NXX of the portable number. This is to prevent the possibility of customers using number portability to extend the local calling area.

2.3.7.2 INP is applicable only if MCIm is engaged in a reciprocal traffic exchange arrangement with USWC.

2.3.7.3 INP is not offered for NXX Codes 555, 976, 960 and 1+ sent-paid telephones, and Service Access Codes (i.e. 500, 700, 800/888, 900). INP is not available for FGA seven-digit numbers (including foreign exchange (FEX), FX and FX/ONAL and foreign Central Office Service). Furthermore, INP numbers may only be used consistent with network efficiency and integrity, i.e., inhibitions on mass calling events.

2.3.7.4 The ported telephone number will be returned to the switch which originally had the ported number when the ported service is disconnected. The normal intercept announcement will be provided by the porting company for the period of time until the telephone number is reassigned.

2.3.7.5 Within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, USWC shall provide MCIm a list of those features that are not available for INP telephone numbers due to technical limitations.

2.4 Ordering and Maintenance

2.4.1 MCIm is responsible for all direct interactions with MCIm's end users with respect to ordering and maintenance.

2.4.2 USWC shall exchange with MCIm SS7 TCAP messages as required for the implementation of Custom Local Area Signaling Services (CLASS) or other features available in the USWC network.

2.4.3 The Parties' designated INP switch must return answer and disconnect supervision to the other Parties' switch.

2.4.4 In accordance with the current ICONN specifications, USWC shall disclose to MCIm any technical or capacity limitations that would prevent use of a requested INP in a particular switching office.

2.4.5 The Parties will develop and implement an efficient deployment process to ensure call routing integrity for toll and local calls, with the objective to eliminate customer downtime.

2.4.6 Both the incoming and outgoing service providers should send the applicable CARE transaction to notify the appropriate IXC that access is now provided by a new service provider for that number.

2.4.7 For INP, MCIm shall have the right to use the existing USWC 911 infrastructure for all 911 capabilities. When RCF is used for MCIm subscribers, both the ported numbers and shadow numbers shall be stored in PSAP databases. MCIm shall have the right to verify the accuracy of the information in the PSAP databases.

Section 3. Permanent Number Portability (PNP)

3.1 Upon implementation of Permanent Number Portability (PNP) pursuant to FCC regulations, both Parties agree to conform and provide such Permanent Number Portability. To the extent consistent with the FCC rules, as amended from time to time, the requirements for PNP shall include the following:

3.2 Subscribers must be able to change local service providers and retain the same telephone number(s) consistent with FCC rules and regulations.

3.3 The PNP network architecture shall not subject alternate local exchange carriers to any degradation of service compared to USWC in any relevant measure, including transmission quality, switching and transport costs, increased call set-up time and post-dial delay, and MCIm shall not be required to rely on the USWC network for calls completing to its ported customers.

3.4 When an office is equipped with PNP, all NXXs in the office shall be defined as portable and translations will be changed in the Parties' switches to open those NXXs for database queries. If a

switch serves multiple rate centers, then, at a minimum, all of the NXXs for a rate center in that switch shall be made portable when any one of them is turned up.

3.5 When an NXX is defined as portable, it shall also be defined as portable in all PNP-capable offices which have direct trunks to the given switch.

3.6 Upon introduction of PNP in an MSA, the applicable switches will be converted according to a published schedule with no unreasonable delay. All portable NXXs shall be recognized as portable, with queries launched from these switches.

3.7 Prior to implementation of PNP, the Parties agree to develop, implement, and maintain efficient methods to maintain 911 database integrity when a subscriber ports to another service provider. The Parties agree that the customer should not be dropped from the 911 database during the transition.

3.8 When a subscriber ports to another service provider and has previously secured a reservation of line numbers from the donor provider for possible activation at some future point, these reserved but inactive numbers shall "port" along with the active numbers being ported by the subscriber. So long as MCIm maintains the reserved numbers, USWC shall not reassign said numbers. The Parties will allocate the revenue generated from number reservations in accordance with the provisions of Attachment 1 to this Agreement.

3.9 During the process of porting a subscriber, the donor service provider shall implement the 10-Digit trigger feature. When the donor provider receives the porting request, the 10-Digit trigger shall be applied to the subscriber's line at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the order due date in order to overcome donor network time delays in the disconnection of the subscriber. Alternatively, when an activation notice is sent to an NPAC to trigger a broadcast to service provider databases, the donor switch shall have its translations changed to disconnect the subscriber's line within fifteen (15) minutes of the donor network Local SMS's having received the broadcast.

3.10 Both MCIm and USWC shall:

(a) support all emergency and operator services;

(b) use scarce numbering resources efficiently and administer such resources in a competitively neutral manner;

(c) jointly cooperate with each other to provide the information necessary to rate and bill all types of calls; and

(d) jointly cooperate with each other to apply PNP consistently on a nationwide basis, and in accordance with all FCC directives.

3.11 A ten-digit code, consistent with the North American Numbering Plan, shall be used as a network address for each switch that terminates subscriber lines, i.e., an end office. This address shall support existing six-digit routing and may be implemented without changes to existing switch routing algorithms. In existing end offices, this address shall be selected from one of its existing NPA-NXXs. New end offices shall be assigned an address through normal administrative processes.

3.12 PNP employs an "N-1" (N minus 1) Query Strategy for interLATA or intraLATA toll calls, by which the originating carrier will pass the call to the appropriate toll carrier who will perform a query to an external routing database and efficiently route the call to the appropriate terminating local carrier either directly or through an access tandem office.

3.13 USWC shall furnish MCIm with the first six digits of the originating address when it supplies MCIm with the Jurisdiction Information Parameter for the Originating Address Message.

3.14 USWC agrees to begin the introduction of PNP to end user subscribers who may begin changing local service providers and retaining their existing telephone number based on the time line set out by the FCC in its Telephone Number Portability Order (CC Docket No. 95-116), or in accordance with a Commission order if such time for introduction of PNP set by the Commission is earlier than would result under the FCC Order.

3.15 The generic requirements for the PNP alternative implemented will be in accordance with industry standard specifications.

3.16 For a local call to a ported number, the originating carrier is the "N-1" carrier. It will perform an external database query as soon as the call reaches the first PNP-capable switch in the call path and pass the call to the appropriate terminating carrier. A PNP-capable originating switch shall query on a local call to a portable NXX as soon as it determines that it (the originating switch) does not serve the dialed number.

3.17 USWC shall be the default carrier for database queries where a participating carrier is unable to perform its own query due to abnormal conditions.

3.18 USWC will provide MCIm PNP for subscribers moving to a different location, or staying at the same location, within the same rate center area.

3.19 USWC will work cooperatively with other local service providers to establish the PNP Service Management System (SMS). The SMS shall be administered by a neutral third party to provide for the efficient porting of numbers between carriers. There must be one (1) exclusive NPAC per portability State or region, and USWC shall provide all information uploads and downloads regarding ported numbers to/from, respectively, the exclusive NPAC. USWC and MCIm shall cooperate to facilitate the expeditious deployment of PNP through the process prescribed by the FCC, including, but not limited to, participation in the selection of a neutral third party and development of SMS, as well as SMS testing for effective procedures, electronic system interfaces, and overall readiness for use consistent with that specified for provisioning in this Agreement.

Section 4. Requirements for INP and PNP

4.1 White and Yellow Page Listings

USWC shall provide and maintain for MCIm one (1) white page and one (1) yellow page (if applicable) listing for each MCIm subscriber that has ported its number from USWC, consistent with that specified for provisioning in this Agreement. The listing and handling of listed and nonlisted telephone numbers will be at least at parity with that provided by USWC to its own subscribers.

4.2 Cut-Over Process

The Parties~~USWC~~ shall cooperate in the process of porting numbers from one carrier to another so as to limit service outage for the ported subscriber. This shall include, but not be limited to, updating its network element translations within ten (10) minutes~~five (5) minutes~~ following notification by the industry SMS, or ported-to local service provider, and deploying such temporary translations as may be required to minimize service outage, e.g., unconditional triggers. In addition, MCIm shall have the right to determine who initiates the order for INP in specific cut-over situations.

4.3 Testing

USWC and MCIm shall cooperate in conducting MCIm's testing to ensure interconnectivity between systems. USWC shall inform MCIm of any system updates that may affect the MCIm network and USWC shall, at MCIm's request, perform tests to validate the operation of the network. Additional testing requirements may apply as specified by this Agreement.

4.4 Engineering and Maintenance

4.4.1 USWC and MCIm will cooperate to ensure that performance of trunking and signaling capacity is engineered and managed at levels which are at least at parity with that provided by USWC to its subscribers and to ensure effective maintenance testing through activities such as routine testing practices, network trouble isolation processes and review of operational elements for translations, routing and network fault isolation.

4.4.2 Additional specific engineering and maintenance requirements shall apply as specified in this Agreement.

4.5 Recording and Billing

USWC shall provide MCIm with accurate billing and Subscriber Account Record Exchange data for MCIm subscribers whose numbers have been ported.

4.5.1 Calls originated from RCF ported numbers in USWC end-offices and sent to the MCIm interLATA toll network must signal the shadow number in the Calling Party Number (CgPN) parameter and ported number in the Charge Number (CN) parameter in the SS7 Initial Address Message.

4.5.2 USWC shall provide MCIm call detail records identifying each IXC, which records are sufficient to allow MCIm to render bills to IXCs for calls IXCs place to ported numbers in the USWC network which the USWC forwards to MCIm for termination.

4.6 Operator Services and Directory Assistance

With respect to operator services and directory assistance associated with PNP for MCIm subscribers, USWC shall provide the following:

4.6.1 While INP is deployed and prior to conversion to PNP:

(a) If requested by MCIm, USWC shall provide Emergency Interrupt (EI) trunks to the MCIm End Office for Busy Line Verification/Busy Line Identification call requests for lines that terminate at the MCIm End Office.

(b) When a BLV/BLI request for a ported number is directed to a 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.

(c) USWC shall allow MCIm to order provisioning of Telephone Line Number (TLN) calling cards and Billed Number Screening (BNS), in its LIDB, for ported numbers, as specified by MCIm. USWC shall continue to allow MCIm access to its LIDB. Other LIDB provisions are specified in this Agreement.

(d) Where USWC has control of directory listings for NXX codes containing ported numbers, USWC shall maintain entries for ported numbers as specified by MCIm.

4.6.2 When PNP is in place:

(a) The provisions in Section 3 above and this Section 4, shall apply when PNP is in place.

(b) If Integrated Services Digital Network User Part (ISUP) signaling is used, USWC shall provide the Jurisdiction Information Parameter in the SS7 Initial Address Message. (See Generic Switching and Signaling Requirements for Number Portability, Issue 1, February 12, 1996 (Editor - Lucent Technologies, Inc.)).

(c) USWC shall provide a 10-Digit Global Title Translation (GTT) Node for routing queries for TCAP-based operator services (e.g., LIDB).

(d) USWC OSS shall meet all requirements specified in “Generic Operator Services Switching Requirements for Number Portability,” Issue 1, Final Draft, April 12, 1996.