

Company:
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CHECKLIST FOR PROCESSING ORIGINAL TARIFFS OR PRICE LISTS

I. TYPE OF TARIFF OR PRICE LIST

- A. Local Exchange Tariff/Price List
- B. Access Services Tariff/Price List
- C. Long Distance Tariff/Price List
- D. Local Niche Services Tariff/Price List

II. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS THAT ONLY APPLY TO THE TARIFFS OR PRICE LISTS OF LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS

The regulatory requirements of Minn. Rules Ch. 7810 and Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600 are as follows:

- A. The tariffs or price lists of local exchange carriers must offer the following services to all customers pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600 (basic service requirements):
 - single party voice-grade service and touch-tone capability;
 - 911 or enhanced 911 access;
 - 1 + intraLATA and interLATA presubscription and code-specific equal access to interexchange carriers subscribing to its switched access service;
 - access to directory assistance, directory listings, and operator services;
 - toll and information service-blocking capability without recurring monthly charges as provided in the commission's ORDER REGARDING LOCAL DISCONNECTION AND TOLL BLOCKING CHARGES, Docket No. P999/CI-96-38 (June 4, 1996), and its ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSIONS AND CLARIFYING ONE PORTION OF PREVIOUS ORDER, Docket No. P999/CI-96-38 (September 16, 1996). These Orders state that no telecommunications provider may disconnect local exchange service for nonpayment of toll service. These Orders also require local exchange carriers to offer toll blocking and bill screening services with no monthly charge.;
 - one white pages directory per year for each local calling area, which may include more than one local calling area, except where an offer is made and explicitly refused by the customer;

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- _____ a white pages and directory assistance listing, or, upon customer request, a private listing that allows the customer to have an unlisted or unpublished telephone number;
 - _____ call-tracing capability according to chapter 7813;
 - _____ (i) call Trace provisions in tariff mirror Commission's tariff templates.
 - _____ blocking capability according to the Commission's ORDER ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF CUSTOMER LOCAL AREA SIGNALING SERVICES, Docket No. P999/CI-92-992 (June 17, 1993) and its ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION, Docket No. P999/CI-92-992 (December 3, 1993). These Orders require local exchange carriers, who offer class services, to offer CLASS trace services and per call and residential per line blocking of CLASS services with no monthly charge. These Orders also require local exchange carriers, who offer CLASS services, to also educate their customers regarding their options with respect to CLASS services and blocking options. In addition, these Orders require companies offering CLASS services to offer per call business blocking to certain businesses (i.e., businesses which meet special criteria) without a monthly charge and anonymous call rejection without a separate charge. Businesses that meet special criteria include law firms and medical offices. Residential customers must be offered per line and per call blocking. A one-time cost-based installation fee maybe applied to customers who request line blocking after an initial period of at least 90 days; and
 - _____ telecommunications relay service capability or access necessary to comply with state and federal regulations.
- _____ B. A Separate flat rate service offering is required pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 2. At a minimum, each local service provider (LSP) shall offer the services identified in Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 1 as a separate tariff or price list offering on a flat rate basis. An LSP may also offer basic local service on a measured rate basis or in combination with other services. An LSP may impose separate charges for the services set forth in subpart 1 only to the extent permitted by applicable laws, rules, and commission orders.
- _____ C. Service area obligations under Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 3: An LSP shall provide its local services on a nondiscriminatory basis, consistent with its certificate under part 7812.0300 or 7812.0350, to all customers who request service and whose premises fall within the carrier's service area boundaries or, for an interim period, to all requesting customers whose premises fall within the operational areas of the local service provider's service area under part 7812.0300, subpart 4, or 7812.0350, subpart 4. The obligation to provide resale services does not extend beyond the service capability of the underlying carrier whose service is being resold. The obligation to provide

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facilities-based services does not require an LSP that is not an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to build out its facilities to customers not abutting its facilities or to serve a customer if the local service provider cannot reasonably obtain access to the point of demarcation on the customer's premises.

- ____D. Service disconnection requirements under Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 7: An LSP may disconnect a customer's basic local service as allowed under parts 7810.1800 to 7810.2000, except that it shall not disconnect basic local service for nonpayment of toll or information service charges or any service other than basic local service.
- ____E. A competitive local exchange carrier shall offer each end user at least one flat rate calling area that matches the flat rate calling area offered that customer by the local exchange carrier under Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0900, subpt. 1, including any applicable extended area service (pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0800, subpt. 1).
- ____F. Local exchange companies must comply with the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 237.73 before disconnecting local exchange services in cases of fraud. Minn. Stat. § 237.73 generally requires a local exchange carrier to obtain a temporary restraining order or injunction before disconnecting local exchange services in cases of fraud.
- ____G. Local exchange carriers who propose to include provisions in their tariffs or price lists allowing for individual case based (ICB) pricing of local exchange services must comply with the Commission's applicable policies and Orders.
- ____H. Local exchange carriers that are Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) must offer the Link-up Program.
 - ____(i) Link-up provisions in tariff mirror Commission's tariff templates.
 - ____(ii) Carrier is not an ETC and is not required to offer Link-Up.
- ____I. All local exchange carriers who introduce promotions must file the appropriate notices with their promotions pursuant to the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 237.626. Minn. Stat. § 237.626 states that "The notice must identify customers to whom the promotion is available and include cost information demonstrating that the revenue from the service covers incremental cost, including cost of the promotion." The notice must include information showing the number of units projected to be sold during the promotion and the projected revenue to be derived during the promotion less the cost of the promotion (including the cost of the charge that is being waived and the administrative cost of carrying out the promotion) to derive the net value of the promotion.

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- ___ J. Local exchange carriers may not withhold number portability from customers whose accounts are in arrears. Docket Nos. P5692, 421/M-99-196; P5669,430/M-99-701.
- ___ K. Local service providers must offer the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP).
 - ___ (i) TAP provisions in tariff mirror Commission's tariff templates.
- ___ L. Local exchange carriers that file tariffs imposing termination charges on wireless carriers must abide by the Commission's Orders in Docket No. P511/M-03-811.

III. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS THAT APPLY ONLY TO THE TARIFFS OR PRICE LISTS OF LONG DISTANCE CARRIERS

The regulatory requirements of Minn. Rules Ch. 7810, Minnesota law, and applicable Commission Orders are as follows:

- ___ A. Minn. Stat. § 237.74, subd. 2 prohibits discrimination with respect to long distance services and states as follows: "No telecommunications carrier shall offer telecommunications service within the state upon terms or rates that are unreasonably discriminatory. No telecommunications carrier shall unreasonably limit its service offerings to particular geographic areas unless facilities necessary for the service are not available and cannot be made available at reasonable costs. The rates of a telecommunications carrier must be the same in all geographic locations of the state unless for good cause the commission approves different rates. A company that offers long-distance services shall charge uniform rates and charges on all long-distance routes and in all geographic areas in the state where it offers the services. However, a carrier may offer or provide volume or term discounts or may offer or provide unique pricing to certain customers or to certain geographic locations for special promotions, and may pass through any state, municipal, or local taxes in the specific geographic areas from which the taxes originate."
- ___ B. Federal law prohibits IXCs from deaveraging interstate rates based on differing access charges and preempts inconsistent state law on intrastate rates that might otherwise permit such deaveraging.¹
- ___ C. With respect to those carriers who bill for uncompleted calls, the Commission's October 16, 1987 Notice to All Long Distance Carriers requires carriers to notify their customers regarding policies relating to billing for uncompleted telephone calls and the policies regarding the availability and procedures for providing refunds of those billed amounts.

¹ Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace, "Report and Order," 1996 WL 444636, 11 F.C.C.R. 9564, 11 FCC Rcd. 9564 (Aug. 07, 1996) (No. CC 96-61, FCC 96-331) at ¶¶38, 46.

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IV. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS THAT APPLY TO THE TARIFFS OR PRICE LISTS OF ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS

The regulatory requirements of Minn. Rules Ch. 7810, Minnesota law, and applicable Commission Orders are as follows:

- ____A. The disconnection requirements in Minn. Rules pt. 7810.1800 through 7810.2200 apply to all telephone companies. Minn. Rules pt. 7810.1800 specifies the permissible reasons to disconnect service with notice. Minn. Rules pt. 7810.1900 specifies permissible reasons to disconnect service without notice. Minn. Rules pt. 7810.2000 specifies nonpermissible reasons to disconnect service. Minn. Rules pt. 7810.2100 requires that service shall not be disconnected on any Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, or any time when the utility's business offices are not open to the public, except where an emergency exists. Minn. Rules pt. 7810.2200 states that a utility shall not charge a reconnect fee for disconnection of service without notice pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 7810.1900 (B).
 - ___ (i) Disconnection provisions in tariff mirror Commission's tariff templates.

- ____B. Notices sent out pursuant to Minn. Rules Ch. 7810 must comply with the notice requirements of Minn. Rules pt. 7810.2300. The notice requirements under Minn. Rules pt. 7810.2300 require, among other things, that notice must precede the action to be taken, such as disconnection, by at least five days excluding Sundays and legal holidays.

- ____C. All telephone companies operating in Minnesota must comply with the Commission's deposit and guarantee requirements in Minn. Rules pt. 7810.1500 through 7810.1700. Minn. Rules pt. 7810.1500 states that deposits can only be based on a customer's utility credit rating. Minn. Rules pt. 7810.1600 requires that deposits be refunded after 12 months of prompt payment of bills to a given telephone company. Minnesota Statutes §325E.02 requires interest to be paid on deposits over \$20 at the rate set by the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, and posted on the Department's website at www.commerce.state.mn.us. Minn. Rules pt. 7810.1700 covers guarantee of payment.
 - ___(i) Deposit provisions in tariff mirror Commission's tariff templates.
 - ___(ii) No deposit required.

- ____D. All telephone companies who apply a returned check charge must comply with the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 604.113. Minn. Stat. § 604.113 states that "a service charge of up to \$30, may be imposed immediately on any dishonored check by the payee or holder of the check, regardless of mailing a notice of dishonor, if notice of the service charge was conspicuously displayed on the premises when the check was issued. Only one service charge may be imposed under this paragraph for each dishonored check. The

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displayed notice must also include a provision notifying the issuer of the check that civil penalties may be imposed for nonpayment." To satisfy this requirement, local service providers must list the returned check charge in their annual notice of customer rights required under Minn. Rules 7812.1000 and in their tariffs. Long distance providers must list the charge in their tariffs.

- ___ E. Telephone companies are not allowed to disconnect service in cases of insolvency or bankruptcy that are unrelated to the payment of services to a given telephone company. Minn. Rules. pt. 7810.1500 states that "no utility shall use any credit reports other than those reflecting the purchase of utility services to determine the adequacy of a customer's credit history without the permission in writing of the customer." Minn. Rules pt. 7810.1800 does not allow for disconnection of services in general cases of bankruptcy and insolvency which are unrelated to the use of the utility's services.
- ___ F. The Commission requires telephone companies who require advance payments from some, but not all, subscribers of a given service to comply with the Commission's deposit rules with respect to these advance payments. This requirement was established pursuant to the Commission's Order of April 1, 1993 for Docket No. P999/CI-92-868.
- ___ G. Telecommunications carriers may not include "forum selection" clauses in their tariffs or contracts which requires customers to litigate in an out-of-state forum. Docket No. P5358, 5381/C-97-1197, Order issued December 29, 1997.
- ___ H. Telecommunications carriers may not include mandatory arbitration provisions in their tariffs. Customers must have the option of filing complaints with the Commission or filing a claim in court in lieu of arbitration. Docket No. P3073/TC-97-1326, Order Issued February 25, 1998.
- ___ I. All telephone companies must comply with the Commission's dial service requirements. Minn. Rules pt. 7810.5300 requires complete dialing of called numbers on at least 97 percent of telephone calls.
- ___ J. All telephone companies operating in Minnesota are required, under the tariff filing requirements of Minn. Stat. § 237.07 and § 237.74, subd. 1 to submit tariff or price list filings for individual promotions. Although telephone companies may include general language in their tariffs or price lists indicating that they offer promotions, the companies should be aware that individual tariff or price list filings must be filed and the filings must describe the individual promotions in detail.
- ___ K. All telephone and telecommunications carriers should include, in their tariffs, the Commission's template on "Customer Complaints and/or Billing Disputes." Inclusion of this template in the tariff is an informal requirement

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of the Commission's staff. Failure to include the template in the tariff may result in a processing delay.

____ L. Other issues (specify) _____

V. RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT

____ A. Approve the proposed tariff/price list as filed by the Company.

____ B. Approve the proposed tariff/price list as filed by the Company and revised on the following date(s):

____ C. Approve the proposed tariff/price list contingent upon the Company filing the following tariff revisions within 30 days of the date of issuance of the Order in this case:

