

ILLINOIS
SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF
FIRST COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

This tariff contains the descriptions, regulations and rates applicable to the furnishing of competitive access service and facilities for telecommunications services provided by First Communications, LLC within the State of Illinois. This tariff is on file with the Illinois Commerce Commission. Copies may be inspected during normal business hours at the Company's principal place of business at 3340 West Market Street, Akron, OH 44333.

Issued: November 27, 2013

Effective: November 28, 2013

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SECTION 1 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE**1. Switched Access Service****1.1 General**

Switched Access Service, which is available to Customers for their use in furnishing their services to End Users, provides a two-point electrical communications path between a Customer's premises and an End User's premises. It provides for the use of common terminating, switching and trunking facilities, and for the use of common subscriber plant of the Company. Switched Access Service provides for the ability to originate calls from an End User's premises to a Customer's premises in the LATA where it is provided.

The application of rates for Switched Access Service is described in Sections 1.5 and 1.6 following. Rates and charges for services other than Switched Access Service, e.g., a Customer interLATA toll message service, may also be applicable when Switched Access Service is used in conjunction with these other services.

SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)**1.2 Rate Categories**

There are three rate categories, which apply to Switched Access Service:

- Local Switching
- Local Transport
- Common Line

1.2.1 Local Switching

Local Switching provides for the use of end office switching equipment. Included in Local Switching are:

Common Switching, which provides the local end office switching functions and optional features.

Transport Termination, which provides for the trunk side arrangements, which terminate the Local Transport facilities. The Company will determine the number of Transport Terminations provided.

Where end offices are appropriately equipped, international dialing may be provided. International dialing provides the capability of switching international calls with service prefix and address codes having more digits than are capable of being switched through a standard equipped end office.

SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)**1.2 Rate Categories (cont'd)****1.2.2 Local Transport**

The Local Transport rate category provides the transmission facilities between the Customer premises and the end office switch(es) where the Customer traffic is switched to originate or terminate its communications.

Local Transport is a two-way voice frequency transmission path composed of facilities determined by the Company. The two-way voice frequency path permits the transport of calls in the originating direction (from the End User end office switch to the Customer's premises) and in the terminating direction (from the Customer premises to the end office switch), but not simultaneously. The voice frequency transmission path may be comprised of any form or configuration of plant capable of and typically used in the telecommunications industry for the transmission of voice and associated telephone signals within the frequency bandwidth of approximately 300 to 3000 Hz.

The Company will work cooperatively with the Customer in determining (1) whether the service is to be directly routed to an end office switch or through an access tandem switch, and (2) the directionality of the service.

A. Transmission Paths

The number of Transport transmission paths provided is based on the Customer's order and is determined by the Company.

B. Interconnection

Interconnection of non-Company switched access transport facilities is available between an end office and a Customer point of presence where such facilities are provided.

1.2.3 Toll Free Number Data Base Access Service

This service provides access on a per query basis to the Toll Free Number Data Base for the purpose of routing end user dialed toll free number calls (i.e. 800/888) to the Customer.

SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)**1.3 Obligations of the Company**

The Company has certain obligations pertaining only to the provision of Switched Access Service. These obligations are as follows:

1.3.1 Network Management

The Company will administer its network to provide acceptable service levels to all telecommunications users of the Company's network services. Generally, service levels are considered acceptable only when both End Users and Customers are able to establish connections with little or no delay encountered within the Company's network. The Company maintains the right to apply protective controls, i.e., those actions, such as call gapping, which selectively cancel the completion of any traffic carried over its network, including that associated with a Customer's Switched Access Service. Generally, such protective measures would only be taken as a result of occurrences such as a failure or overload of Company or customer facilities, natural disasters, mass calling or national security demands.

1.3.2 Design and Traffic Routing of Switched Access Service

The Company shall design and determine the routing of Switched Access Service, including the selection of the first point of switching and the selection of facilities from the interface to any switching point and to the end offices where busy hour minutes of capacity are ordered. The Company shall also decide if capacity is to be provided by originating only, terminating only, or two-way trunk groups. Finally, the Company will decide whether trunk side access will be provided through the use of two-wire or four-wire trunk terminating equipment. Selection of facilities and equipment and traffic routing of the service are based on standard engineering methods, available facilities and equipment and the Company's traffic routing plans. If the Customer desires different routing or directionality than that determined by the Company, the Company will work cooperatively with the Customer in determining (1) whether the service is to be routed directly to an end office or through an access tandem switch and (2) the directionality of the service.

SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)**1.3 Obligations of the Company****1.3.3 Provision of Service Performance Data**

Subject to availability, end-to-end service performance data available to the Company through its own service evaluation routines may also be made available to the Customer based on previously arranged intervals and format. The data provides information on overall end-to-end call completion and non-completion performance Customer equipment blockage, failure results and transmission performance. The data does not include service performance data, which is provided under other tariff sections, testing service results. If data is to be provided in other than paper format, the charges for such exchange will be determined on an individual case basis.

1.3.4 Trunk Group Measurements Reports

Subject to availability, the Company will make available trunk group data in the form of usage in CCS, peg count and overflow to the Customer based on previously agreed to intervals.

1.3.5 Intercept

The Company arranges to provide for the termination of a call to a Company Intercept operator or recording at the dedicated intercept network from the end office switch. The operator or recording announces to caller the reason why the call cannot be completed, and if possible, provides corrected dialing instructions.

SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)**1.4 Obligations of the Customer**

The Customer has certain specific obligations pertaining to the use of Switched Access Service. These obligations are as follows:

1.4.1 Report Requirements

Customers are responsible for providing the following reports to the Company, when applicable.

A. Jurisdictional Reports

When a Customer orders Switched Access Service for both interstate and intrastate use.

B. Code Screening Reports

When a Customer orders service call routing, trunk access limitation or call gapping arrangements, it must report the number of trunks and/or the appropriate codes to be instituted in each end office or access tandem switch, for each of the arrangements ordered.

The Company will administer its network in such a manner that the impact of traffic surges due to peaked 900 Access Service traffic on other access service traffic is minimized. Network management controls as defined in Section 1.3.1 may be implemented at the Company option to ensure acceptable service levels.

1.4.2 On and Off-Hook Supervision

The Customer facilities shall provide the necessary on and off-hook supervision for accurate timing of calls.

1.4.3 Trunk Group Measurements Reports

With the agreement of the Customer, trunk group data in the form of usage in CCS, peg count and overflow for its end of all access trunk groups, where technologically feasible, will be made available to the Company. The data will be used to monitor trunk group utilization and service performance and will be based on previously arranged intervals and format.

SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)**1.4 Obligations of the Customer (cont'd)****1.4.4 Identification and Rating of VoIP-PSTN Traffic****(A) Scope**

- (1) VoIP-PSTN Traffic is defined as traffic exchanged between the Telephone Company end user and the customer in time division multiplexing (“TDM”) format that originates and/or terminates in Internet protocol (“IP”) format. This section governs the identification of VoIP-PSTN Traffic that is required to be compensated at interstate access rates by the Federal Communications Commission in its Report and Order in WC Docket Nos. 10-90, etc., FCC Release No. 11-161 (Nov. 18, 2011) (“FCC Order”). Specifically, this section establishes the method of separating such traffic (referred to in this tariff as “Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic”) from the customer’s traditional intrastate access traffic, so that such Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic can be billed in accordance with the FCC Order.
- (2) This section will be applied to the billing of switched access charges to a customer that is a local exchange carrier only to the extent that the customer has also implemented billing of interstate access charges for Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic in accordance with the FCC Order.

(B) Rating of VoIP-PSTN Traffic

The Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic identified in accordance with this tariff section will be billed at rates equal to the Telephone Company’s applicable tariffed interstate switched access rates as specified in the Telephone Company’s applicable federal access tariff. Please see Sections 6 and 7.

(C) Calculation and Application of Percent-VoIP-Usage Factor

The Telephone Company will determine the number of Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic minutes of use (“MOU”) to which interstate rates will be applied under subsection (B), above, by applying a Percent VoIP Usage (“PVU”) factor to the total intrastate access MOU exchanged between a The Telephone Company end user and the customer. The PVU will be derived and applied as follows:

- (1) The customer will calculate and furnish to the Telephone Company a factor (the “PVU”) representing the percentage of the total intrastate and interstate access MOU that the customer exchanges with the Telephone Company in the State, that (a) is sent to the Telephone Company and that originated in IP format; or (b) is received from the Telephone Company and terminated in IP format. This PVU shall be based on information such as traffic studies, actual call detail, or other relevant and verifiable information.

SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)**1.4 Obligations of the Customer (cont'd)****1.4.4 Identification and Rating of VoIP-PSTN Traffic (cont'd)****(C) Calculation and Application of Percent-VoIP-Usage Factor (cont'd)**

- (2) The Telephone Company will apply the PVU factor to the total intrastate access MOU exchanged with the customer to determine the number of Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic MOUs.
- (3) If the customer does not furnish the Telephone Company with a PVU pursuant to the preceding paragraph 1, the Telephone Company will utilize a PVU equal to zero.

(D) Initial PVU Factor

If the PVU factor is not available and/or cannot be implemented in the Telephone Company's billing systems by December 29, 2011, once the factor is available and can be implemented the Telephone Company will adjust the customer's bills to reflect the PVU retroactively to December 29, 2011. This retroactive adjustment will be made to December 29, 2011, provided that the customer provides the factor to the Telephone Company no later than June 15, 2012; otherwise, it will set the initial PVU equal to zero, as specified in subsection (C)(1), above.

(E) PVU Factor Updates

The customer may update the PVU factor quarterly using the method set forth in subsection (C)(1), above. If the customer chooses to submit such updates, it shall forward to the Telephone Company, no later than 15 days after the first day of January, April, July and/or October of each year, a revised PVU factor based on data for the prior three months, ending the last day of December, March, June and September, respectively. The revised PVU factor will apply prospectively and serve as the basis for billing until superseded by a new PVU.

(F) PVU Factor Verification

Not more than four times in any year, the Telephone Company may ask the customer to verify the PVU factor furnished to the Telephone Company. The party so requested shall comply, and shall reasonably provide the records and other information used to determine the PVU factors.

SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)**1.5 Rate Regulations**

This section contains the specific regulations governing the rates and charges that apply for Switched Access Service.

Access Charges are applied on a per access minute basis. Access minute charges are accumulated over a monthly period.

1.5.1 Minimum Periods

Switched Access Service is provided for a minimum period of one month.

1.5.2 Cancellation of Access Service Order

A Customer may cancel an Access Order for the installation of service on any date prior to notification by the Company that service is available for the Customer's Use or prior to the service date, whichever is later. The cancellation date is the date the Company receives written or verbal notice from the Customer that the order is to be canceled. The verbal notice must be followed by written confirmation within 10 days. If a Customer or End User is unable to accept Access Service within 30 calendar days of the original service date, the Access Order will be canceled and applicable charges will apply.

A. Prior to Firm Order Confirmation Date

If an Access Order is canceled prior to the Firm Order Confirmation date, no charges will apply.

B. On or After Firm Order Confirmation Date

If an Access Order is canceled on or after the Firm Order Confirmation date, the Customer will be billed a flat cancellation fee.

Cancellation Fee	\$25.00
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SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)**1.5 Rate Regulations (cont'd)****1.5.3 IntraLATA Presubscription Charges**

	<u>Nonrecurring Charges</u>
A. Per business or residence line, trunk, or port	\$ 5.00
B. Unauthorized IntraLATA Presubscription Change Charge, per business or residence line or trunk	\$18.00

SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)

1.6 Rates and Charges

1.6.1 Recurring Charges

A. End Office

	<u>Per Access Minute</u>
- Originating	\$0.009732
- Terminating	\$0.00

(R)

B. Local Transport

Switched Transport	<u>Per Access Minute, Per Mile</u>	<u>Per Access Minute</u>
- Originating		
Zone 1	\$0.000197	\$0.002452
Zone 2	\$0.000198	\$0.002452
Zone 3	\$0.000198	\$0.002454
Zone 4	\$0.000198	\$0.002455
Zone 5	\$0.000198	\$0.002457
- Terminating		
Own End Office Termination	\$0.00 (R)	\$0.00 (R)
Third Party Loc. Termination	\$0.000013	\$0.000103

(T)

(T)

Tandem Switching, Per Access Minute	<u>Originating</u>	<u>Own End Office Termination</u>	<u>Third Party Location Termination (T)</u>
	\$0.000837	\$0.0007 (R)	\$0.001084
Zone 1	\$0.000862	\$0.0007	\$0.001116
Zone 2	\$0.000865	\$0.0007	\$0.001120
Zone 3	\$0.000966	\$0.0007	\$0.001252
Zone 4	\$0.001084	\$0.0007 (R)	\$0.001800 (T)
Zone 5			

C. Toll Free Data Base Access Service
(i.e. 800/888)

- Per Query	\$0.005275
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Issued: June 22, 2017

Effective: July 1, 2017

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SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)

1.7 Other Carrier to Carrier Services Offered by the Company

1.7.1 Offerings to Local Exchange Carriers

The Company's retail services as contained in this Tariff, are available for resale to certified local exchange carriers at applicable retail rates without discriminatory or anti-competitive conditions or limitations.

1.7.2 Local Number Portability

Number portability is available. Numbers can be ported to and from other carriers.

1.7.3 Facilities Based Territory

Ameritech MSA 1

SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)**2 Carrier Common Line Access Service****2.1 General**

The Company will provide Carrier Common Line Access Service to Customers in conjunction with Switched Access Service provided in Section 1 of this tariff. Carrier Common Line provides for the use of End Users' Company-provided common lines by Customers for access to such End Users to furnish Intrastate Communications.

2.2 Limitations

No telephone number or detailed billing will be provided with Carrier Common Line Access. Directory listings and intercept arrangements are not included in the rates and charges for Carrier Common Line Access.

2.3 Application of Intrastate Charges

Intrastate rates apply only to that portion of Carrier Common Line Service provided for intrastate usage.

2.4 Rates and Charges

	<u>Per Access Minute</u>
- Originating	\$0.0000
- Terminating	\$0.0000