



State Government Relations
 205 North Michigan Avenue
 Suite 700
 Chicago, IL 60601

June 10, 2014



Transmittal Letter No. 2014-1

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

North Dakota Public Service Commission
 Mr. Darrell Nitschke
 Executive Secretary
 600 East Boulevard, Dept 408
 Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: Verizon Access Transmission Services: Tariff No. 2
 Reduce Terminating Access Rates Pursuant to Federal Communications Commission
 Connect America Fund Order (FCC 11-161)**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services (“Verizon Access”) hereby files with your office an original and seven (7) copies of revisions to its North Dakota Tariff No. 2. The effective date of this filing is July 1, 2014, in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC”) 2011 *Connect America Fund Order*, 26 FCC Rcd 17663. The following revised pages are included in this Transmittal:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Revision</u>
2	8
3	6
63	5

The *Connect America Fund Order* requires that Verizon Access reduce its default terminating switched access rates – both interstate and intrastate – effective July 1, 2014, as part of a multi-step transition towards “bill and keep” rates. See, *Connect America Fund Order* at Figure 9, summarizing the steps in the transition. Competitive LECs (“CLECs”) such as Verizon Access are subject to the FCC’s “benchmarking rule” for their interstate access charges. Para. 807 of the *Connect America Fund Order* states:

For interstate switched access rates, competitive LECs are permitted to tariff interstate access charges at a level no higher than the tariffed rate for such services offered by the incumbent LEC serving the same geographic area (the benchmarking rule).

The *Connect America Fund Order* also adopted rule §51.911, which states in pertinent part:

(c) Effective July 1, 2013, notwithstanding any other provision of the Commission’s rules, all Competitive Local Exchange Carrier Access Reciprocal Compensation rates for switched exchange access services subject to this subpart shall be no higher than the Access Reciprocal Compensation rates charged by the competing incumbent local exchange carrier, in accordance with the same procedures specified in §61.26 of this chapter.

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The "benchmarking rule," FCC Rule 61.26, states:

c) The benchmark rate for a CLEC's switched exchange access services will be the rate charged for similar services by the competing ILEC. If an ILEC to which a CLEC benchmarks its rates, pursuant to this section, lowers the rate to which a CLEC benchmarks, the CLEC must revise its rates to the lower level within 15 days of the effective date of the lowered ILEC rate.

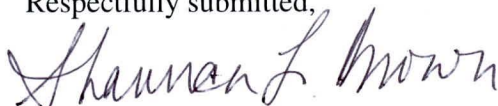
These requirements differ from those applicable to the incumbent LECs. Whereas the ILECs' access rates are calculated in accordance with prescriptive rules adopted by the FCC, the benchmark rule for CLECs is reactive, based on the competing ILEC's rates. The effect of this benchmark rule means that Verizon Access will not have the data necessary to calculate its new default terminating switched access rates until mid-June, when the ILECs file their interstate rates with the FCC.

For this reason and for administrative simplicity, Verizon Access' tariff amendments contained herein make express reference to its interstate tariff for terminating switched access rates. Verizon Access will revise its default terminating interstate rates in accordance with 47 C.F.R. 61.26 when the relevant ILEC rates become available, and at that time, the Verizon Access intrastate tariff will likewise reference those new rates.

Verizon Access's interstate rates are located in MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC Tariff FCC No. 1, Section E.4.3, and may be viewed at the following web address:
<http://www.verizon.com/tariffs/PDFViewer.aspx?doc=169129>.

Please date stamp and return the enclosed copy of this letter to my attention in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. If you have any questions, please call me at (312) 894-2349 or send me an email at shannon.brown@verizon.com.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon L. Brown
Tariff Manager
Verizon

Enclosure

ACCESS SERVICES

CHECK SHEET

The Title Page and Pages 1 - 66 inclusive of this tariff are effective as of the date shown. Original and revised pages, as named below, comprise all changes from the original tariff in effect on the date indicated.

<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Revision</u>
1	1
2	8*
3	6*
4	Original
5	1
6	3
7	Original
8	1
9	Original
10	Original
11	1
12	Original
13	1
14	1
15	1
16	Original
17	Original
18	Original
19	Original
20	Original
21	Original
22	Original
22.1	1
23	Original
24	Original
24.1	Original
25	1
26	1
27	3
27.1	1
28	2
29	1
30	Original
31	Original
32	Original

* New or Revised

ISSUED: June 11, 2014

Shannon L. Brown, Tariff Manager
205 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60601

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2014

ACCESS SERVICES

CHECK SHEET (Cont.)

<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Revision</u>
33	Original
33.1	Original
34	Original
34.1	Original
35	1
36	1
37	Original
38	Original
38.1	Original
39	Original
40	1
41	1
42	Original
43	Original
44	1
45	1
46	1
47	1
48	1
49	1
50	1
51	Original
52	2
53	2
54	1
55	Original
56	Original
57	Original
58	Original
58.1	Original
59	1
60	3
61	Original
62	1
63	5*
64	1
65	1
66	1

* New or Revised

ACCESS SERVICES

7. SWITCHED ACCESS RATES (Cont.)

7.4 Rates and Charges (Cont.)

7.4.4 Switched Access

7.4.4.1 Direct Connect Charges:

Per Access Minute of Originating Use:	\$0.029507	
Per Access Minute of Terminating Use:	**	C/R

7.4.4.2 Tandem Connect Charges:

Tandem Connect Without Tandem Switching		
Per Access Minute of Originating Use:	\$0.039050	
Per Access Minute of Terminating Use:	**	C/R

Tandem Connect With Tandem Switching		
Per Access Minute of Originating Use:	\$0.039050	
Per Access Minute of Terminating Use:	**	C/R

7.4.4.3 Toll Free 8YY Transit Traffic Service (per minute of use):¹

Per Direct Transit Minute of Use:	\$0.006677
Per Indirect Transit Minute of Use:	\$0.007619

7.4.5 Chargeable Optional Features

7.4.5.1 800 Data Base Access Service Basic Query

Per Query
\$0.003461

7.4.5.2 Signaling Transfer Point Access

Non-Recurring	
<u>Per Port</u>	<u>Via Third Party</u>
ICB	ICB

7.4.6 Nonchargeable Optional Features
Supervisory Signaling \$0.00

7.4.7 Feature Group D Optional Features

7.4.7.1 Common Switching Optional Features

Alternate Traffic Routing	\$0.00
Automatic Number Identification	\$0.00
Cut-Through	\$0.00
Service Class Routing	\$0.00
Feature Group D with 950 Access	\$0.00
Signaling System Seven (SS7)	\$0.00
Basic Initial Address Message Delivery	\$0.00
Called Directory Number Delivery	\$0.00
Flexible Automatic Number Identification Delivery	\$0.00

** For terminating rates, refer to MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC Tariff FCC No. 1, Section E.4.3.

N/R

¹This is a blended rate comprised of the following ILEC rate elements at the time of this filing. The Direct Transit Minute of Use rate includes: Tandem Switching, one-half of the Transport Termination rate; one mile of Transport Facility, and one-half of the Common Multiplexer rate. The Indirect Transit Minute of Use rate includes: Tandem Switching, Transport Termination, two miles of Transport Facility, and the Common Multiplexer rate.