

June 24, 2015

Darrell Nitschke
Executive Director
North Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol
600 East Boulevard, Twelfth Floor
Bismarck, ND 68505



RE: Midcontinent Communications Tariff “Switched Access Services Within The State Of North Dakota”

Dear Mr. Nitschke,

Enclosed for submission to the North Dakota Public Service Commission is the following revised tariff page for incorporation into Midcontinent Communications’ (“Midcontinent”) Tariff “Switched Access Services Within The State Of North Dakota:”

3rd Revised Page 44.1.

In this filing, Midcontinent complies with the July 1, 2015 step down requirement set forth by the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC”) rule 47 C.F.R. § 51.911(c), Access reciprocal compensation rates for competitive LECs, promulgated under the FCC USF/ICC Transformation Order in WC Docket Nos. 10-90, etc., FCC No. 11-161 (released on November 18, 2011). This rule states in sub-part (c) that “Beginning July 1, 2013... all Competitive Local Exchange Carrier Access Reciprocal compensation rates for switched exchange access services subject to this subpart [Transitional Access Service Pricing including intrastate terminating rates] 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.” Rule 47 C.F.R. § 61.26 states in sub-part (c) that “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.”

To comply with this FCC rule, Midcontinent now reduces its terminating intrastate end office switched access rates to the levels of the corresponding dominant incumbent local exchange carrier’s (CenturyLink Qwest’s) rates. The overall impact of this tariff filing is a reduction in Midcontinent’s composite terminating intrastate switched access rate in North Dakota.

The filing date of this tariff is June 24, 2015, with an effective date of July 16, 2015.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,



Mary Lohnes
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Midcontinent Communications
3901 N Louise Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57107
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(605) 357-5459

Enclosures:

Revised Tariff Page

Rate Comparison Table

ACCESS SERVICE

SECTION 3 – SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)

3.9 Recurring Charges

Tandem Transmission (cont'd)

<u>Mileage Bands</u>	<u>Rate Per Terminating Access Minute</u>	
	<u>Fixed</u>	<u>Per Mile</u>
Over 0 to 8	\$ 0.00024	\$ 0.00003
Over 8 to 25	\$ 0.00024	\$ 0.00003
Over 25 to 50	\$ 0.00024	\$ 0.00003
Over 50	\$ 0.00024	\$ 0.00003

4. Switch Management Services Expedited Trunk Code Routing Charges
(1-15 codes)

Nonrecurring Charge ICB

C. End Office Local Switching

Local Switching Originating, Per Access Minute	\$ 0.010566	
Common Port Originating, Per Access Minute	\$ 0.001300	
Local Switching Terminating, Per Access Minute	\$ 0.000807	(R)
Common Port Terminating, Per Access Minute	\$ 0.000306	(R)

ISSUED: June 24, 2015

EFFECTIVE: July 16, 2015

Tom Simmons
Sr. Vice President – Public Policy
3901 N. Louise Avenue
Sioux Falls, ND 57107

Midcontinent Communications North Dakota Intrastate Switched Access Tariff Filing effective July 16, 2015

Comparison of Rates Subject to the FCC Step Down Rules

Rate Element	Current Midcontinent's Intrastate Terminating Rates	Current CenturyLink Qwest's Terminating Intrastate Rates	7/1/2015 CenturyLink Qwest's Terminating Intrastate Rates	7/16/2015 Midcontinent's Intrastate Terminating Rates
CARRIER COMMON LINE	\$0.000000	\$0.000000	\$0.000000	\$0.000000
LOCAL SWITCHING	\$0.001391	\$0.001391	\$0.000807	\$0.000807
COMMON TRUNK PORT	\$0.000526	\$0.000526	\$0.000306	\$0.000306
TANDEM SW TERM. (per min). 1-8 miles	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240
TANDEM SW TERM. (per min). 8-25 miles	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240
TANDEM SW TERM. (per min). 25-50 miles	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240
TANDEM SW TERM. (per min). >50 miles	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240
TANDEM SW FACILITY (per min. mile). 1-8 miles	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030
TANDEM SW FACILITY (per min. mile). 8-25 miles	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030
TANDEM SW FACILITY (per min. mile). 25-50 miles	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030
TANDEM SW FACILITY (per min. mile). >50 miles	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030
TANDEM SWITCHING	\$0.002252	\$0.002252	\$0.002252	\$0.002252
TRANSPORT INTERCONNECTION CHARGE	\$0.000000	\$0.000000	\$0.000000	\$0.000000
COMMON MULTIPLEXER	\$0.000000	\$0.000036	\$0.000036	\$0.000000

Per 47 § 51.911(c) "Beginning 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 [Transitional Access Service Pricing] 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."