



*Via Electronic and US Mail*

July 1, 2016

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

4<sup>th</sup> Revised Page 44.1.

In this filing, Midcontinent complies with the July 1, 2016 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.

1 PU-16-403 Filed 07/01/2016 Pages: 4  
Revisions to ND Tariff – 4th Revised Page 44.1  
Midcontinent Communications  
Mary Lohnes

The filing date of this tariff is July 1, 2016, with an effective date of July 24, 2016 (which is also the effective date of Midcontinent's reductions in its terminating interstate end office rates).

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  
[mary\\_lohnes@mmi.net](mailto:mary_lohnes@mmi.net)  
(605) 357-5459

Enclosures:

- Revised Tariff Page
- Rate Comparison Table

Midcontinent Communications North Dakota Intrastate Switched Access Tariff Filing effective July 24, 2016

Comparison of Rates Subject to the FCC Step Down Rules

Rate Element	Current Midcontinent's Intrastate Terminating Rates	7/1/2016 CenturyLink Qwest's Terminating Intrastate Rates	7/24/2016 Midcontinent's Intrastate Terminating Rates
CARRIER COMMON LINE	\$0.000000	\$0.000000	\$0.000000
<b>LOCAL SWITCHING</b>	<b>\$0.000807</b>	<b>\$0.000700</b>	<b>\$0.000700</b>
<b>COMMON TRUNK PORT</b>	<b>\$0.000306</b>	<b>\$0.000000</b>	<b>\$0.000000</b>
TANDEM SW TERM. (per min). 1-8 miles	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240
TANDEM SW TERM. (per min). 8-25 miles	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240
TANDEM SW TERM. (per min). 25-50 miles	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240
TANDEM SW TERM. (per min). >50 miles	\$0.000240	\$0.000240	\$0.000240
TANDEM SW FACILITY (per min. mile). 1-8 miles	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030
TANDEM SW FACILITY (per min. mile). 8-25 miles	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030
TANDEM SW FACILITY (per min. mile). 25-50 miles	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030
TANDEM SW FACILITY (per min. mile). >50 miles	\$0.000030	\$0.000030	\$0.000030
TANDEM SWITCHING	\$0.002252	\$0.002252	\$0.002252
TRANSPORT INTERCONNECTION CHARGE	\$0.000000	\$0.000000	\$0.000000
COMMON MULTIPLEXER	\$0.000000	\$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."

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	\$ 0.000700	(R)
Common Port Terminating, Per Access Minute	\$ 0.000000	(R)

---

ISSUED: June 30, 2016

EFFECTIVE: July 24, 2016

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