



May 21, 2020

Mr. Steven Kahl
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E Boulevard Avenue – State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Attached for filing are the following revisions to the Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink Access Service Price Schedule, issued May 21, 2021 with a proposed effective date of July 1, 2021:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
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2	Page 64, Release 2	6	Page 115, Release 8
2	Page 65, Release 3	6	Page 115.1, Release 3
3	Page 11, Release 6	6	Page 123, Release 10

This filing proposes the first step in implementing the 8YY Access Service reductions mandated in the Federal Communications Commission's October 9, 2020 Report and Order in WC Docket No. 18-156, (FCC 20-143), (8YY Access Charge Reform). Beginning July 1, 2021 each Price Cap Carrier shall:

1. Establish separate rate elements for interstate and intrastate toll free originating end office access service and non-toll free originating end office access service.
2. Reduce its intrastate toll free originating end office access service rates to its interstate toll free originating end office service rates.
3. Establish separate rate elements for interstate and intrastate non-toll free originating transport services for service between an end office switch and the tandem switch and remove its rate for intrastate and interstate originating toll free transport services consistent with a bill-and-keep methodology.
4. Establish separate rate elements respectively for interstate and intrastate non-toll free originating tandem switching services.
5. Establish transitional interstate and intrastate Joint Tandem Switched Transport Access Service rate elements for Toll Free Calls that are respectively no more than \$0.01 per minute.
6. Reduce its interstate and intrastate rates for Toll Free Database Query Charges to no more than \$0.004248 per query.

For your reference, Attachment A includes the proposed 8YY Access Charge Reform tariff pages for CenturyLink Operating Companies F.C.C. Tariff No. 11.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Christina L. Chushuk

ND2021-07

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SECTION 2

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Release 3

State of South Dakota
Issued: 05-21-2021

Effective: 07-01-2021

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

Effective 4-Wire

The term "Effective 4-Wire" denotes a condition which permits the simultaneous independent transmission of information in both directions over a channel. The method of implementing effective 4-wire transmission is at the discretion of the Company (physical, time domain, frequency-domain separation or echo cancellation techniques). Effective 4-wire channels may be terminated with a 2-wire interface at the customer's premises. However, when terminated 2-wire, simultaneous independent transmission cannot be supported because the two wire interface combines the transmission paths into a single path.

800 Data Base Access Service

The term "800 Data Base Access Service" denotes a toll-free originating Trunkside Access Service when the 8XX Service Access Code (i.e., 800, 822, 833, 844, 855, 866, 877 or 888 as available) is used. The **terms 8XX and 8YY are** used interchangeably with 800 Data Base Access Service throughout this Tariff to describe this service.

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8XX Service Provider

The term "8XX Service Provider" denotes a telecommunications company, including Exchange and Interexchange Carriers, that offer 8XX Service to subscribers.

End Office Switch

The term "End Office Switch" denotes a local Company switching system where Telephone Exchange Service customer station loops are terminated for purposes of interconnection to trunks. Included are Remote Switching Modules and Remote Switching Systems served by a host office in a different wire center.

End User (EU)

The term "End User" means any customer of an interstate or foreign telecommunications service that is not a carrier, except that a carrier (other than a telephone company) shall be deemed to be an "end user" when such carrier uses a telecommunications service for administrative purposes and a person or entity that offers telecommunications services exclusively as a reseller shall be deemed to be an "end user" if all resale transmissions offered by such reseller originates or terminates on the premises of such reseller.

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Release 3

State of South Dakota
Issued: 05-21-2021

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2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

Multifrequency (MF) Address Signaling

The term "Multifrequency Address Signaling" denotes a signaling method in which a combination of two out of six Voiceband frequencies are used to represent a digit or a control signal.

Multiplexing (MUX)

The term "Multiplexing" denotes a method of concentrating information via signal processing techniques (i.e., frequency division, multiplexing, time division multiplexing, etc.)

Network Address

The term "Network Address" denotes a numeric character string used to identify the customer network location of the DTE and the destination of each virtual call made within the network to that location.

Network Control Signaling

The term "Network Control Signaling" denotes the transmission of signals used in the telecommunications system which perform functions such as supervision (control, status, and charge signals), address signaling (e.g., dialing), calling and called number identifications, rate of flow, service selection error control and audible tone signals (call progress signals indicating re-order or busy conditions, alerting, coin denominations, coin collect and coin return tones) to control the operation of the telecommunications system.

Network Interface (NI)

The term "Network Interface" denotes the point of interconnection between Company communications facilities and terminal equipment, protective apparatus or other customer provided facilities.

Non-Inverting Digital Loopback (108 Type) Test Line

The term "Non-Inverting Digital Loopback (108 Type) Test Line" denotes a termination in a digital Company switch location to conduct digital testing of digital services (i.e., 56 kbps, 64 kbps and 64 kbps clear channel).

Non-8YY

All calls that are not toll free (8YY) as established by the FCC's 8YY Access Charge Reform Order (FCC 20-143) released on October 9, 2020.

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Release 2

State of South Dakota
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2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

Nonsynchronous Test Line

The term "Nonsynchronous Test Line" denotes an arrangement in step-by-step end offices which provides operational tests which are not as complete as those provided by the synchronous test lines, but can be made more rapidly.

North American Numbering Plan (NANP)

The term "North American Numbering Plan" denotes a three-digit area (Numbering Plan Area) code and a seven-digit telephone number made up of a three-digit Central Office code plus a four-digit station number.

Octet

The term "Octet" denotes a continuous sequence of eight binary bits of information.

Off-hook

The term "Off-hook" denotes the active condition of Switched Access or a Telephone Exchange Service line.

Office Replacement

The term "Office Replacement" denotes a situation where the hardware and software in a Company switching office is replaced with different hardware and software for the establishment and maintenance of a given switching office.

On-hook

The term "On-hook" denotes the idle condition of Switched Access or a Telephone Exchange Service line.

Open Circuit Test Line

The term "Open Circuit Test Line" denotes an arrangement in an end office which provides an ac open circuit termination of a trunk or line by means of an inductor of several Henries.

Originating Direction

The term "Originating Direction" denotes the use of access service for the origination of calls from an end user premises to a customer's premises.

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SECTION 3

Page 14

Release 6[1]

State of South Dakota

Issued: 05-21-2021

Effective: 07-01-2021

3. CARRIER COMMON LINE ACCESS SERVICE

3.9 RATES AND CHARGES

	RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE	
• Originating – Non 8YY	\$0.038420	(C)
• Originating - 8YY	0.000000 (R)	(C)
• Terminating	0.000000	(T)

[1] This page previously canceled Pages 15 and 16, Release 1.

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SECTION 6

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Release 5

State of South Dakota
Issued: 05-21-2021

Effective: 07-01-2021

6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.1 GENERAL

6.1.2 RATE CATEGORIES

A. Switched Transport

1. General Description (Cont'd)

c. Switched Transport TST Rate Category

TST provides the transmission facilities between an access tandem and end offices subtending that tandem utilizing tandem switching functions. TST is not available from or to a Company Hub. TST consists of circuits used in common by multiple customers from the access tandem to an end office. For TST, the Company will determine the type of facilities to the end office(s) based on the customer's order for service on a per-trunk basis. For examples of Tandem Switched Transport see Section 2.4.7 preceding.

Effective July 1, 2021, as established in the 8YY Access Charge Reform (FCC 20-143), existing tandem switching charges and transport charges for originating 8YY traffic are eliminated and a single joint tandem switched access service rate element for 8YY originating access service is established. The 8YY originating Joint Tandem Switched Transport rate is provided at the rates set forth in Section 6.8.1.C.4.

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The TST rate category is composed of the rate elements set forth in (1) and (2), following. Rates and charges are set forth in 6.8, following.

(1) Tandem Transmission

Tandem Transmission is composed of a fixed per-MOU rate and per-mile/per-MOU rate. The fixed rate provides for the circuit equipment at the end of the interoffice transmission paths. The per-mile rate provides for the transmission facilities, including intermediate transmission circuit equipment between the end points of the interoffice circuit. For purposes of determining the per-mile rate, mileage will be measured as airline mileage using the V & H coordinates method. Mileage measurement rules are set forth in 6.7.11, following.

(2) Tandem Switching

Tandem Switching is a per-MOU rate assessed for utilizing tandem switching functions when tandem routing is requested for trunkside services. Tandem Switching is not assessed to FGA Services.

(3) Access Tandem Trunk Port

An access tandem trunk port (ATTP) is provided for each trunk terminated on the SWC side of the access tandem when the customer has requested tandem routing. The ATTP rate is assessed monthly per Feature Group trunk (excludes FGA).

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6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES

6.8.1 SWITCHED TRANSPORT (Cont'd)

C. Tandem-Switched Transport Usage Rates

MILEAGE BANDS	RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE	
	FIXED	PER MILE
1. Tandem Transmission		
• Originating – Non-8YY (T)		
0	–	–
Over 0 to 8	\$0.000237	\$0.000015
Over 8 to 25	0.000273	0.000018
Over 25 to 50	0.000308	0.000019
Over 50	0.000311	0.000020
• Terminating – Tandem 3rd Party		
0	–	–
Over 0 to 8	0.000240	0.000030
Over 8 to 25	0.000240	0.000030
Over 25 to 50	0.000240	0.000030
Over 50	0.000240	0.000030
• Terminating – Tandem End Office		
0	–	–
Over 0 to 8	0.000000	0.000000
Over 8 to 25	0.000000	0.000000
Over 25 to 50	0.000000	0.000000
Over 50	0.000000	0.000000

* Effective July 1, 2021, pursuant to FCC 20-143, separate rate elements for 8YY and Non-8YY originating transport services were established. The Non-8YY originating elements are displayed above. The originating 8YY rate element for combined transport services is displayed as 8YY Joint Tandem Switched Transport in Section 6.8.1.C.4., following.

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Issued: 05-21-2021

6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES

6.8.1 SWITCHED TRANSPORT (Cont'd)

C. Tandem-Switched Transport Usage Rates

RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE

2. Tandem Switching Charge:		
Originating – Non-8YY *	\$0.007664	(T)
Terminating – Tandem 3rd Party	0.002252	
Terminating – Tandem End Office	0.000000	
3. Common Transport Multiplexing:		
Originating – Non-8YY *	0.000036	(T)
Terminating – Tandem 3rd Party	0.000036	
Terminating – Tandem End Office	0.000000	
4. 8YY Joint Tandem Switched Transport		(N)
Originating – 8YY *	\$0.001	(N)

**MONTHLY
RATE**

5. Access Tandem Trunk Port Charge, per port	\$6.00	(T)
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* Effective July 1, 2021, pursuant to FCC 20-143, separate rate elements for 8YY and Non-8YY originating transport services were established. The 8YY originating rate element for combined transport services is displayed as 8YY Joint Tandem Switched Transport. (N)

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6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

6.8.2 LOCAL SWITCHING

A. Local End Office Switching

	RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE	
• LS1 - Feature Groups A and B		
Originating – 8YY	\$0.001974 (R)	(C)
Originating - Non-8YY	0.008557	(C)
Terminating	0.000000	
• LS2 - Feature Groups C and D		
Originating – 8YY	0.001974 (R)	(C)
Originating - Non-8YY	0.008557	(C)
Terminating	0.000000	
• End Office Shared Port		
Originating – 8YY	0.000747	(C)
Originating - Non-8YY	0.000747	(C)
Terminating	0.000000	
	MONTHLY RATE	
• End Office Dedicated Trunk Port,[1] per trunk	\$3.00	

[1] The End Office Dedicated Trunk Port rate was calculated based upon a 50/50 split between originating and terminating traffic using this flat-rated port. The FCC in their FCC 11-161 ICC Transformation order in section 51.907(d)(1) allowed Price Cap Carriers to use an equal split to divide the charge between originating and terminating elements. When the terminating portion of the rate is reduced and then combined with the originating portion of the rate a single flat rate is generated for billing purposes. The Originating portion of the charge is \$3.00.

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6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

6.8.3 INTERCONNECTION CHARGE

	RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE	
• Originating – Non-8YY*	0.004681	(C)
• Terminating	0.000000	

6.8.4 MESSAGE UNIT CREDIT

	FGA ACCESS MINUTE[1]
• Rate per originating	\$(0.001726)

6.8.5 RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

* Effective July 1, 2021, pursuant to FCC 20-143, separate rate elements for 8YY and Non-8YY originating transport services were established. The 8YY originating rate element for combined transport services is displayed as 8YY Joint Tandem Switched Transport, preceding. (N)
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[1] () equals a negative amount.

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6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

6.8.6 900 ACCESS SERVICE

	NONRECURRING CHARGE
• Per first NXX, per end office/ tandem	\$101.71
• Per each subsequent NXX, per End Office/Tandem	23.86
• Expanded 900 Option per end office/tandem with NXX activity (available with CST3 and FGD)	874.81
• Expanded 900 Option per end office/tandem without NXX activity (available with CST3 and FGD)	950.88

RECURRING CHARGE

• 900 Customer Identification Charge	\$0.000994
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6.8.9 800 DATA BASE ACCESS SERVICE

	RATE PER CALL/QUERY	
• 800 Carrier Identification Charge, per call	\$0.003312	
• Vertical Features		
- POTS Translation Charge, per call	0.000000	(R)
- Call Handling & Destination Feature Charge, per query	0.000000	(R)

ATTACHMENT A

Proposed CenturyLink Operating Companies F.C.C. No. 11

ACCESS SERVICE

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

Effective 2-Wire

The term "Effective 2-Wire" denotes a condition which permits the simultaneous transmission in both directions over a channel, but it is not possible to ensure independent information transmission in both directions. Effective 2-wire channels may be terminated with 2-wire or 4-wire interfaces.

Effective 4-Wire

The term "Effective 4-Wire" denotes a condition which permits the simultaneous independent transmission of information in both directions over a channel. The method of implementing effective 4-wire transmission is at the discretion of the Company (physical, time domain, frequency-domain separation or echo cancellation techniques). Effective 4-wire channels may be terminated with a 2-wire interface at the customer's premises. However, when terminated 2-wire, simultaneous independent transmission cannot be supported because the two wire interface combines the transmission paths into a single path.

800 Data Base Access Service

The term "800 Data Base Access Service" denotes a toll-free originating Trunkside Access Service when the 8XX Service Access Code (i.e., 800, 822, 833, 844, 855, 866, 877, or 888 as available) is used. The term 8XX and 8YY is used interchangeably with 800 Data Base Service throughout this Tariff to describe this service. (C)

8XX Service Provider

The term "8XX Service Provider" denotes a telecommunications company, including Exchange and Interexchange Carriers, that offer 8XX Service to subscribers.

ACCESS SERVICE

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

Network Interface (NI)

The term "Network Interface (NI)" denotes the point of interconnection between Company communications facilities and terminal equipment, protective apparatus or other customer provided facilities.

Non-Competitive Serving Wire Center

A Company Serving Wire Center that has not met the Competitive Market Test as established by the FCC's BDS Order (17-43) on April 28, 2017 at §69.803.

Non-Impaired Wire Center

The term "Non-Impaired Wire Center" denotes a Wire Center that meets the loop thresholds identified in CFR 47 §51.319(a)(4)(i) for DS1 Loops, or the loop thresholds identified in CFR 47 §51.319(a)(5)(i) for DS3 Loops, or the Tier 1 or Tier 2 Wire Centers designations as defined in §51.319(e)(3).

Non-Inverting Digital Loopback (108 Type) Test Line

The term "Non-Inverting Digital Loopback (108 Type) Test Line" denotes a termination in a digital Company switch location to conduct digital testing of digital services (i.e., 56 kbps, 64 kbps and 64 kbps clear channel).

Nonsynchronous Test Line

The term "Nonsynchronous Test Line" denotes an arrangement in step-by-step end offices which provides operational tests which are not as complete as those provided by the synchronous test lines, but can be made more rapidly.

Non-8YY

All calls that are not toll free (8YY) as established by the FCC's 8YY Access Charge Reform Order (FCC 20-143) released on October 9, 2020.

North American Numbering Plan (NANP)

The term "North American Numbering Plan" denotes a three-digit area (Numbering Plan Area) code and a seven-digit telephone number made up of a three-digit Central Office code plus a four-digit station number.

Off-hook

The term "Off-hook" denotes the active condition of Switched Access or a Telephone Exchange Service line.

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ACCESS SERVICE

6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.1 GENERAL

6.1.2 RATE CATEGORIES

A. Switched Transport

1. General Description (Cont'd)

c. Switched Transport TST Rate Category

TST provides the transmission facilities between an access tandem and end offices subtending that tandem utilizing tandem switching functions. TST is not available from or to a Company Hub. TST consists of circuits used in common by multiple customers from the access tandem to an end office. For TST, the Company will determine the type of facilities to the end office(s) based on the customer's order for service on a per-trunk basis. For examples of Tandem Switched Transport see Section 2.4.7 preceding.

Effective July 1, 2021, as established in the 8YY Access Charge Reform (FCC 20-143), existing tandem switching charges and transport charges for originating 8YY traffic are eliminated and a single joint tandem switched access service rate element for 8YY originating access service is established. The 8YY originating Joint Tandem Switched Transport rate is provided at the rates set forth in Section 6.8.1 C.1.

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The TST rate category is composed of the rate elements set forth in (1) through (4), following. Rates and charges are set forth in 6.8, following.

(1) Tandem Transmission

Tandem Transmission is composed of a fixed per-MOU rate and per-mile/per-MOU rate. The fixed rate provides for the circuit equipment at the end of the interoffice transmission paths. The per-mile rate provides for the transmission facilities, including intermediate transmission circuit equipment between the end points of the interoffice circuit. For purposes of determining the per-mile rate, mileage will be measured as airline mileage using the V & H coordinates method. Mileage measurement rules are set forth in 6.7.11, following.

ACCESS SERVICE

6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES

6.8.1 SWITCHED TRANSPORT (Cont'd)

C. Tandem-Switched Transport

1. Tandem Transmission Usage Rates

MILEAGE BANDS	RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE	
	FIXED	PER MILE
-Originating- Non-8YY *		
0	-	-
Over 0 to 8	\$0.000240	\$0.000030
Over 8 to 25	0.000240	0.000030
Over 25 to 50	0.000240	0.000030
Over 50	0.000240	0.000030
-Terminating – Tandem 3rd Party		
0	-	-
Over 0 to 8	0.000240	0.000030
Over 8 to 25	0.000240	0.000030
Over 25 to 50	0.000240	0.000030
Over 50	0.000240	0.000030
-Terminating – Tandem End Office		
0	-	-
Over 0 to 8	0.000000	0.000000
Over 8 to 25	0.000000	0.000000
Over 25 to 50	0.000000	0.000000
Over 50	0.000000	0.000000

(T)

* Effective July 1, 2021, pursuant to FCC 20-143, separate rate elements for 8YY and Non-8YY originating transport services were established. The Non-8YY originating element is displayed above. The originating 8YY rate element for transport services is displayed as 8YY Joint Tandem Switched Transport in Section 6.8.1(C)(1), following.

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ACCESS SERVICE

6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES

6.8.1 SWITCHED TRANSPORT

C. Tandem-Switched Transport

1. Tandem Transmission Usage Rates (Cont'd)

RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE

• Tandem Switching Charge		
- Originating– Non-8YY *	\$0.002252	(T)
- Terminating – Tandem 3rd Party	0.002252	
- Terminating – Tandem End Office	0.000000	
• Common Transport Multiplexing		
- Originating– Non-8YY *	0.000036	(T)
- Terminating – Tandem 3rd Party	0.000036	
- Terminating – Tandem End Office	0.000000	
• 8YY Joint Tandem Switched Transport		(N)
- Originating – 8YY *	0.001	(N)
2. Tandem Trunk Rate		
		MONTHLY
		RATE
• Access Tandem Trunk Port Charge, Per Trunk		\$6.00

* Effective July 1, 2021, pursuant to FCC 20-143, separate rate elements for 8YY and Non-8YY originating transport services were established. The 8YY originating rate element for transport services is displayed as 8YY Joint Tandem Switched Transport.

ACCESS SERVICE

6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

6.8.2 LOCAL SWITCHING

A. Local End Office Switching

RATE PER
 ACCESS MINUTE

1. End Office Switching Rates

• LS1 - Feature Groups A and B, and Bundled <i>DID</i> [1]		
- Originating- 8YY	\$0.001974	(C)
- Originating- Non-8YY	0.001974	(C)
- Terminating	0.000000	
• LS2 - Feature Groups C and D		
- Originating- 8YY	0.001974	(C)
- Originating- Non-8YY	0.001974	(C)
- Terminating	0.000000	
• LS3 - CSL, CST1 and Unbundled <i>DID</i> [1]		
- Originating- 8YY	0.001905	(C)
- Originating- Non-8YY	0.001905	(C)
- Terminating	0.000000	
• LS4 - CST2 and CST3		
- Originating- 8YY	0.001905	(C)
- Originating- Non-8YY	0.001905	(C)
- Terminating	0.000000	
2. End Office Shared Port		
- Originating- 8YY	0.000747	
- Originating- Non-8YY	0.000747	
- Terminating	0.000000	

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[1] *DID* available only in ID (Spokane LATA), OR, WA.

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ACCESS SERVICE

6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES

6.8.2 LOCAL SWITCHING (Cont'd)

A. Local End Office Switching

- 3. End Office Dedicated Trunk Port,[1]
Per Trunk

MONTHLY
RATE

\$3.00

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NONRECURRING
CHARGE

- B. BSE Order Charge, per
Subsequent Order[2]

\$62.63

C. Common Switching Optional
Features and BSEs

- 1. Call Denial on line or hunt group
(available with CSL and FGA),
per line
- 2. Service Code Denial on line or
hunt group (available with CSL
and FGA), per line
- 3. Hunt Group Arrangement
(available with FGA), per line

NONRECURRING CHARGE MONTHLY RATE

Hunt Group Arrangement (BSE)
(available with CSL) per line[2]

— \$0.02

[1] The End Office Dedicated Trunk Port rate was calculated based upon a 50/50 split between originating and terminating traffic using this flat-rated port. The FCC in their FCC 11-161 ICC Transformation order in section 51.907(d)(1) allowed Price Cap Carriers to use an equal split to divide the charge between originating and terminating elements. When the terminating portion of the rate is reduced and then combined with the originating portion of the rate a single flat rate is generated for billing purposes. The Originating portion of the charge is \$3.00.

[2] This flat rated charge was calculated based upon a 50/50 split between originating and terminating. The FCC in their FCC 11-161 ICC Transformation order in section 51.907(d)(1) allowed Price Cap Carriers to use an equal split to divide the charge between originating and terminating elements. When the terminating portion of the rate is reduced and then combined with the originating portion of the rate, a single flat rate is generated for billing purposes.

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ACCESS SERVICE

6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

6.8 RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

6.8.9 8YY DB SERVICE

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RATE PER
CALL/QUERY

- 8YY Carrier Identification Charge,
per call

\$0.004053

(T)

- Vertical Features

- POTS Translation Charge,
per call

0.000000 (R)

- Call Handling & Destination
Feature Charge, per query

0.000000 (R)