



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:

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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

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# Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC

## Access Service

## Price Schedule

SECTION 2

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State of North Dakota

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## 2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 2.6 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

#### Effective Two-Wire

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

#### Effective Four-Wire

The term "Effective Four-Wire" denotes a condition which permits the simultaneous independent transmission of information in both directions over a channel. The method of implementing effective four-wire transmission is at the discretion of the Company (physical, time domain, frequency-domain separation or echo cancellation techniques). Effective four-wire channels may be terminated with a two-wire interface at the customer's premises. However, when terminated two-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 Price Schedule 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 offers 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.

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**2. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**2.6 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)**

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.

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.**

(N)  
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(N)

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.

Off-hook

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

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## 2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 2.6 DEFINITIONS (Cont'd)

#### 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.

#### Originating Direction

The term "Originating Direction" denotes the use of Access Service for the origination of calls from an End User Premises to an IC premises.

#### Pay Telephone

The term "Pay Telephone" denotes an instrument provided by a Payphone Service Provider that is available to the general public for public convenience and necessity. Pay telephones utilize Basic and Smart Public Access Line Service provided under the Exchange and Network Services Price Schedule.

#### Payphone Service Provider (PSP)

The term "Payphone Service Provider" denotes an entity that controls and incurs the costs of placement and maintenance of pay telephones.

#### Percent Interstate Use (PIU)

The term "Percent Interstate Use" (PIU) refers to traffic that originates in one state and terminates in a different state.

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**3. CARRIER COMMON LINE ACCESS SERVICE**

**3.8 RATE TERMS AND CONDITIONS (Cont'd)**

**3.8.5 DETERMINATION OF RATES**

After the adjustments as set forth in 3.6.4 and 3.8.4, preceding, have been applied, when necessary, to Switched Access Service access minutes, rates for the involved customer account will be determined as follows:

- A. Carrier Common Line Access rates shall not be reduced as set forth in 3.6.1, preceding, unless Switched Access rates, as set forth in 6.8, following, are applied to the customer's Switched Access Services.
- B. The terminating access per minute rate applies to all terminating access minutes of use.
- C. The originating access per minute rate applies to all originating access minutes of use.

**3.9 RATES**

	<b>RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE</b>	
• Originating – <b>Non-8YY</b>	\$0.018941	(C)
• <b>Originating – 8YY</b>	<b>\$0.000000 (R)</b>	
• Terminating	0.000000	(C)

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### 6. SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE

#### 6.1 GENERAL

##### 6.1.2 RATE CATEGORIES

###### A.1. (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., following.**

(N)  
|  
(N)

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 6.7.10, 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 serving wire center 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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NOTICE  
THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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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

- Tandem Transmission

MILEAGE BANDS	RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE	
	FIXED	PER MILE
• Originating – Non-8YY *		
0	—	—
Over 0 to 8	\$0.000447	\$0.000058
Over 8 to 25	0.000771	0.000052
Over 25 to 50	0.000545	0.000046
Over 50	0.000646	0.000035

(T)

- 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., following.

(N)

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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

	RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE	
• Tandem Switching Charge		
- Originating – <b>Non-8YY</b> *	\$0.005734	(T)
- Termination – Tandem 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party	0.002252	
- Termination – Tandem End Office	0.000000	
• Common Transport Multiplexing		
- Originating – <b>Non-8YY</b> *	\$0.001010	(T)
- Termination – Tandem 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party	0.000036	
- Termination – Tandem End Office	0.000000	
• <b>8YY Joint Tandem Switched Transport</b>		(N)
- <b>Originating – 8YY</b> *	<b>\$0.001</b>	(N)
		<b>MONTHLY RATE</b>
• Access Tandem Trunk Port Charge, per port		\$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 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

	<b>RATE PER ACCESS MINUTE</b>	
• LS1 - Feature Groups A & B		
- Originating – <b>8YY</b>	<b>\$0.001974 (R)</b>	(C)
- Originating – <b>Non-8YY</b>	0.010566	(C)
- Terminating	0.000000	
• LS2 - Feature Groups C & D		
- Originating – <b>8YY</b>	<b>0.001974 (R)</b>	(C)
- Originating – <b>Non-8YY</b>	0.010566	(C)
- Terminating	0.000000	
• End Office Shared Port		
- Originating – <b>8YY</b>	<b>0.000747 (R)</b>	(C)
- Originating – <b>Non-8YY</b>	0.001300	(C)
- Terminating	0.000000	
	<b>MONTHLY RATE</b>	
• End Office Dedicated Trunk Port,[1] per trunk	\$3.00	
	<b>RATE</b>	
• 800 DB Access Service		
- 800 CIC, per call	\$0.003461	
- Vertical Features		
- POTS Translation Charge, per call	<b>0.000000 (R)</b>	
- Call Handling and Destination Feature Charge, per query	<b>0.000000 (R)</b>	
• 900 Access Service Customer Identification Charge, per call	0.000983	

[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.