



July 12, 2021

Steve Kahl
Executive Secretary / Director of Administration
North Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol
600 East Boulevard, Twelfth Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505

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

Dear Mr. Kahl:

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:”

- 1st Revised Page 6
- 6th Revised Page 44
- 6th Revised Page 44.1
- 2nd Revised Page 45

In this filing, Midcontinent implements 8YY access service reductions required by the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC”) October 9, 2020 Report and Order in WC Docket No. 18-156 (FCC 20-143). This Order mandated the following rate caps for the July 2021 step down of incumbent local exchange carriers’ (“ILECs”) toll-free originating access service rates (which also capped corresponding competitive local exchange carriers’ rates through the FCC benchmarking rules):

- Intrastate End Office access service rates are capped at the corresponding interstate rates.
- A new Joint Tandem Switched Transport Access Service rate element for interstate and intrastate Toll Free Calls (capped at \$0.001) replaces tandem switching and tandem transmission charges for 8YY traffic.
- 800 database query charges are capped at \$0.004248.

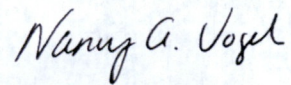
To comply with these FCC 8YY rules, Midcontinent a CLEC, reduces 800 database query rates by deleting charges for vertical features. It also bifurcates its originating access rates between 8YY and Non-8YY traffic, and reduces its intrastate 8YY end office and 8YY tandem switched transport access service rates to the levels of its interstate rates. Per FCC rules, Midcontinent Communications is also filing its revisions to Tariff FCC No. 1, where it bifurcates its originating access rates between 8YY and Non-8YY traffic, and reduces its

8YY tandem switched transport access service rates to the levels of competing ILECs' rates.

The filing date of this tariff is July 12, 2021, with an effective date of July 31, 2021.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy A. Vogel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N'.

Nancy Vogel
Director of Regulatory Finance
Midcontinent Communications
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Sioux Falls, SD 57107
605-357-5485
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ACCESS SERVICE

SECTION 1 – DEFINITIONS

8YY or 8XX: Calls to toll-free numbers, as defined in 47 C.F.R. §52.101. (N)

Access Code: Denotes a uniform code assigned by the Company to an individual Customer. The code has the form 10XXX, 10XXXXX, 950-XXX, or 950-1XXX

Access Minutes: Denotes that usage of exchange facilities in intrastate service for the purpose of calculating chargeable usage.

Access Service Request (ASR): The industry service order format used by Access Service Customers and access providers as agreed to by the Ordering and Billing Forum.

Access Tandem: A switching system that provides a traffic concentration and distribution function for originating or terminating traffic between end offices and a Customer's premises.

Account: The Customer who has agreed, verbally or by signature, to honor the terms of service established by the Company. An account may have more than one access code billed to the same Customer address.

Answer Supervision: The transmission of the switch trunk equipment supervisory signal (off-hook or on-hook) to the Customer's point of termination as an indication that the called party has answered or disconnected.

Bit: The smallest unit of information in a binary system of notation.

Bits per Second (bps): The number of bits transmitted in a one second interval.

Call: A Customer attempt for which the complete address code is provided to the service end office.

Central Office: A local Company switching system where Customer station loops are terminated for purposes of interconnection to each other and to trunks.

Channel: A path for electrical transmission between two or more points, the path having a bandwidth and termination of the Customer's choosing.

City: For the purposes of this tariff, the term City denotes a specific geographic area serviced by the Carrier. A city is typically a metropolitan area and may include one or more adjacent or nearby areas in which the Carrier has network facilities.

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EFFECTIVE: July 31, 2021

Director of Regulatory Affairs
3901 N. Louise Avenue
Sioux Falls, ND 57107

ACCESS SERVICE

SECTION 3 – SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)

3.9 Recurring Charges

A. Carrier Common Line Access Service

Per Minute Charge:

<u>Originating Non-8YY</u>	<u>Originating 8YY</u>	(T)(C)
\$ 0.018941	[#]	(T)(C)
<u>Terminating</u>		(T)
\$ 0		(T)

B. Tandem Switched Management Services

1. Installation Charge: ICB
2. Port Connections: ICB
- Monthly Charge: ICB
- DS1 Port Connection: ICB
- DS3 Port Connection: ICB

3. Per Minute Charge:

<u>Tandem Switching Originating Non-8YY</u> [*]	(T)
\$ 0.005734	(T)
<u>Tandem Switching Terminating</u> [1]	(T)
\$ 0.002252	(T)

Tandem Transmission

	Rate Per Originating Non-8YY Access Minute [*]		(T)
<u>Mileage Bands</u>	<u>Fixed</u>	<u>Per Mile</u>	
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	

[1] For traffic terminating from an access tandem owned by the Company or its affiliates to an end office owned by the Company or its affiliates, the Tandem Switching Terminating Rate is \$0.

[*] For Originating 8YY: per FCC 20-143, tandem switching and tandem transmission charges are eliminated and replaced with a single Joint Tandem Switched Access rate element. (N)

[#] Mirrors interstate tariff. See the Company's Tariff FCC No. 1, Section 3.9, available at <https://apps.fcc.gov/etfs/public/lecTariffs.action?idLec=527>. (N)

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ACCESS SERVICE

SECTION 3 – SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)

3.9 Recurring Charges

Tandem Transmission (cont'd)

<u>Mileage Bands</u>	Rate Per Terminating Access Minute [1]	
	<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

8YY Joint Tandem Switched Access, per Originating 8YY minute: [#] (N)

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

Nonrecurring Charge ICB

C. End Office Local Switching

Local Switching Originating, Per Non-8YY Access Minute	\$0.010566	(T)
Local Switching Originating, Per 8YY Access Minute	[#]	(C)
Common Port Originating, Per Non-8YY Access Minute	\$ 0.001300	(T)
Common Port Originating, Per 8YY Access Minute	[#]	(C)
Local Switching Terminating, Per Access Minute	\$ 0.000000	
Common Port Terminating, Per Access Minute	\$ 0.000000	

[1] For traffic terminating from an access tandem owned by the Company or its affiliates to an end office owned by the Company or its affiliates, the Tandem Transmission Terminating Rates are zero.

[#] Mirrors interstate tariff. See the Company's Tariff FCC No. 1, Section 3.9, available at <https://apps.fcc.gov/etfs/public/lecTariffs.action?idLec=527>. (N)
(N)

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ACCESS SERVICE

SECTION 3-SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (cont'd)

3.9 Recurring Charges (cont'd)

D. 8XX Data Base Access Service Queries

Per Query	
Basic	\$0.003461

(D)
|
|
|
|
(D)

E. Special Construction

ICB

F. VoIP-PSTN Traffic

1. Scope

VoIP-PSTN Traffic is defined as traffic exchanged between a Midcontinent end user and the customer in time division multiplexing ("TDM") format that originates and/or terminates in Internet protocol ("IP") format. This section governs the identification of VoIP-PSTN Traffic that is required to be compensated at interstate access rates (unless the parties have agreed otherwise) by the Federal Communications Commission in its Report and Order in WC Docket Nos. 10-90, etc., FCC No. 11-161 (Nov.18, 2011) ("FCC Order") as modified by its Second Order on Reconsideration, FCC No. 12-47 (Apr. 25, 2012) and codified in 47 C.F.R. § 51.913. Specifically, this section establishes the method of separating such traffic (referred to in this tariff as "Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic") from the customer's traditional intrastate access traffic, so that such Relevant VoIP-PSTN Traffic can be billed in accordance with the FCC Order and rule 47 C.F.R. § 51.913. Rating of VoIP-PSTN traffic described in section 3.9.F.2 below applies to terminating intrastate switched access minutes of use, and, after July 1, 2014, to originating intrastate switched access minutes of use.

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