

TARIFF DISTRIBUTION

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PURPOSE: This project grandfathers MegaLink, LighGate
and RCF.

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A13. MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

A13.11 Remote Call Forwarding

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D, effective November 1, 2025, Remote Call Forwarding will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existing term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

A13.11.1 Description of the Service

- A. Remote Call Forwarding (RCF) is a service whereby a call placed from a station (the originating station) to a customer's (the RCF customer) telephone number (the call forwarding location) is automatically forwarded by Company central office equipment to another station designated by the RCF customer (the terminating station).

A13.11.2 Limitations

- A. Remote Call Forwarding service is offered subject to availability of suitable facilities.
- B. RCF service is not offered where the terminating number is a public telephone.
- C. The Company does not guarantee identification of the originating telephone number to the Remote Call Forwarding customer.
- D. Transmission characteristics may vary depending on the distance and routing necessary to complete the remotely forwarded call.
- E. Remote Call Forwarding is not represented as suitable for satisfactory transmission of data.
- F. Remote Call Forwarding to another Company-provided RCF number is not permitted.
- G. Remote Call Forwarding is provided on the condition that the customer subscribes to sufficient features and facilities at the call forwarding location and, where appropriate, at the terminating location to adequately handle calls to the RCF customer without interfering with or impairing any services offered by the Company.
- H. When the Remote Call Forwarding number is to be located in a multi-office exchange, the Company will determine the serving central office.
- I. The local calling area for Remote Call Forwarding provided in a particular wire center will be the same as that provided on a non-optional basis to subscribers to Basic Local Exchange Service in that same wire center, as described in Section A3. This local calling area includes that provided in calling plans such as Extended Calling Service and Local Calling Plus. Calls outside the local calling area will be sent-paid (1+ only) toll calls.
- J. Where the RCF customer receives a business listing, calls will not be forwarded to a Company provided service for which residential rates apply.
- K. Where calls are to be forwarded to telephone service other than that of the RCF subscriber, it shall be the responsibility of the RCF subscriber to obtain permission for such forwarding from the subscriber to the other service and to determine a mutually acceptable number of access facilities (calling paths). Where the other subscriber contests such forwarding or the number of access facilities, the Company reserves the right to modify the RCF service to the extent necessary to eliminate the other subscriber's complaint. The RCF subscriber shall be responsible for the guidebook charge for any resulting rearrangement of the RCF service.

A13.11.3 Listings

One listing in the alphabetical section of the *Company's Listing Information System* covering the exchange in which the Remote Call Forwarding central office is located is provided without additional charge.

A13.11.4 Minimum Contract Period

The minimum contract period for this service is one month.

A13.11.5 Monthly Charges

- A. The following charges are for the Remote Call Forwarding feature and additional access facilities only and are in addition to applicable charges for service and equipment with which it is used.

		Monthly Rate	USOC
1.	Residence		
	(a) Per feature arranged for other than local forwarding	\$19.50	RCF++
	(b) Per feature arranged for local forwarding	19.50	RCF+F
	(c) Per additional access facility	19.50	RCA
2.	Business		
	(a) Per feature arranged for other than local forwarding	60.86	RCF++
	(b) Per feature arranged for local forwarding	60.86	RCF+F
	(c) Per additional access facility	60.86	RCA

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D, effective November 1, 2025, MegaLink Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existing term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

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B7.1 MegaLink Service

B7.1.1 General

- A. MegaLink service is furnished for Private Line IntraLATA Communications by the Company.
- B. MegaLink service is a service for the transmission of digital signals only and using only digital transmission facilities.
- C. MegaLink service provides for the simultaneous two-way transmission of isochronous digital signals at DS1 speeds of 1.544 Mbps, where facilities are available.
- D. To ensure satisfactory operation, the terminal equipment provided by the customer must be compatible with the MegaLink service channel facility provided by the Company. The technical specifications and standard network interfaces for MegaLink service are contained in Technical Reference Publication 73525. This publication is available from Documentation Operations, North W5A1, 3535 Colonnade Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama 35243.
- E. Unless specified following, the terms and conditions for MegaLink service specified herein apply in addition to the terms and conditions set forth in Section B2.
- F. The rates specified for MegaLink service in B7.1.3 following contemplate the provision of a digital quality facility utilizing existing interoffice carrier equipment and/or exchange cable facilities compatible with this service. If such equipment, new facilities or changes to existing facilities are required for the provision of this service, a special construction charge as specified in Section B5. will apply in addition to the rates for MegaLink service.

B7.1.2 Terms and Conditions

- A. Description of Service
 - 1. MegaLink service is furnished for the simultaneous two-way transmission of serial, Bipolar Return-to-Zero (BPRZ) isochronous digital signals, except where intentional bipolar violations are introduced by Bipolar with 8 Zero Substitution (B8ZS) format, at a speed of DS1/1.544 Mbps between two-points located within a LATA.
 - 2. Multipoint service is not available.
 - 3. MegaLink service is available on a month-to-month basis or under variable rate periods³ with rates based on lengths of **12 months**³, **24-48 months**^{1,2}, **49-72 months**¹ or **73-96 months**¹, under conditions specified in B2.4. If the customer does not select a new contract option or does not request discontinuance of service, service will be continued under the terms specified in B2.4.9.A.7.
 - 4. Connection of DS1/1.544 Mbps communications systems provided by others may be made on a permissive basis as provided for in Section B2. The Company does not represent its MegaLink service as adapted for such connections, and shall not be responsible for the through transmission of signals, or the quality of such transmission on such connections.
 - 5. A Channel Service Unit (CSU) or appropriate Termination Equipment (TE) provided by the customer is required at a customer's or authorized user's premises to perform such functions as:
 - proper termination of the service
 - amplification
 - signal shaping
 - remote loop-back

Note 1: As of October 1, 2013, payment periods greater than 36 months are no longer available for new or renewing subscribers.

Note 2: As of April 5, 2021, the 24-36 Month Contract Term is no longer available for new or renewing subscribers.

Note 3: Effective August 29, 2025, customers may not elect a Term Payment Plan of any length, and existing Term Payment Plans of any length will not be renewed or extended. Upon expiration of any Term Payment Plan, month-to-month rates will apply subject to the Company's right to modify such rates upon notice to customer.

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.2 SynchroNet Service (*Obsoleted, See Section B107*) (Cont'd)

B7.3 MegaLink Channel Service

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D, effective November 1, 2025, MegaLink Channel Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existing term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

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B7.3.1 General

- A. MegaLink channel service is an intraLATA digital service which provides channelization capability for the customer in the Company's central office. MegaLink channel service is provided in packages based on multiple voice grade channel equivalents (DS0) where 24 voice grade channels are equal to a DS1. This service provides local channels and/or interoffice channels for analog voice services such as network exchange access, Foreign Exchange Service, ESSX service, Digital ESSX service, MultiServ service, MultiServ PLUS service station lines, or BellSouth Centrex service, off-premises stations, tie lines, WATS lines, toll terminals, analog data service, Broadband Exchange Lines and digital data services (at 2.4 Kbps, 4.8 Kbps, 9.6 Kbps, 19.2 Kbps, 56 Kbps, 64Kbps, and MegaLink service rates).

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.4 LightGate Service

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D, effective November 1, 2025, LightGate Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existing term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

(N)

B7.4.1 General

- A. LightGate service is an intraLATA fiber optic based, digital service which provides channelization capability for the customer in packages based on systems consisting of DS3, DS1, STS-1, OC-3, OC-12, OC-48 and OC-192 channels. It will provide local channels and/or interoffice channels in the following system sizes:

- Asynchronous – LightGate 1
- Synchronous – STS-1, OC-3, OC-12, OC-48 and OC-192 LightGate service

Asynchronous systems are capable of transporting DS1 and DS3 channels. Synchronous systems are capable of transporting all channels. The capacity of each LightGate service System is shown in the following table:

<u>LightGate System</u>	<u>DS1</u>	<u>DS3</u>	<u>STS-1</u>	<u>OC-3</u>	<u>OC-12</u>	<u>OC-48</u>
LightGate 1	28	1				
LightGate STS-1	28		1			
LightGate OC-3	84	3	3	1		
LightGate OC-12	336	12	12	4	1	
LightGate OC-48	1344	48	48	16	4	1
LightGate OC-192	5376	192	192	64	16	4

- B. Channelization is provided by LightGate service Systems which furnish fiber optic transport from the central office to a customer's premises. Channel interfaces are offered to provide individual DS1, Flex DS1, DS3, DS3 (Asymmetrical with DS1/Flex DS1), STS-1, OC-3, OC-12, OC-48, 10 Mbps, 100 Mbps, Fractional 1000 Mbps and 1000 Mbps channels. The customer may channelize all or part of a LightGate service package to activate data facilities for interconnection with the exchange network, voice grade and data facilities for private line channels, as well as other LightGate services. The customer may also choose not to channelize all or part of a LightGate service package allowing direct connection to other LightGate services, DS3 or DS1 services as provided in this *Guidebook* or the General *Exchange Guidebook*. (OC-12, OC-48 and OC-192 LightGate service local channel systems and OC-192 interoffice channel systems are only available as channelized.)

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.8 SMARTPath Service

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D, effective November 1, 2025, SMARTPath Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existing term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

(N)

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B7.8.1 General

- A. SMARTPath service is furnished for Private Line IntraLATA Communications by the Company.
- B. SMARTPath service is a service for transmission of digital signals only and uses only digital transmission facilities.
- C. SMARTPath service is a shared high capacity network service capable of providing a 1.544 Mbps transport link with high performance and reliability parameters and a level of redundancy/diversity designed to limit a single event from interrupting service.
- D. This service is available only in those locations within specified SMARTPath service Areas which the Company determines can be incorporated into the SMARTPath service network enabling the Company to provide the specified level of performance and reliability. For locations where a customer requests SMARTPath service and facilities are not available, construction charges will apply as set forth on Section B5. preceding.
- E. SMARTPath service Areas are identified in the NATIONAL EXCHANGE CARRIER TARIFF (NECA) F.C.C. No. 4.
- F. The technical specifications and standard network interfaces for SMARTPath service are contained in Technical Reference Publication #73575. This publication is available from Documentation Operations, North W5A1, 3535 Colonnade Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama 35243.
- G. DS1s carried over Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) transport systems can incur phase transients as a result of pointer adjustments. In some instances timing problems could surface in customer's equipment with Stratum 3 or better clocks. This may result in the customer's clock disqualifying its synchronization reference, generating an alarm and/or selecting an alternate reference or entering holdover. To insure proper operation, channelized DS1 circuits must comply with Bellcore Technical Advisory, TA-NWT-000436, Digital Synchronization Network Plan, and ANSI T1.101-1994. When timing is taken from a Company transported DS1, the customer's equipment must be capable of accommodating SONET pointer adjustments.

B7.8.2 Terms and Conditions

- A. Description of Service
 - 1. SMARTPath service provides a transport link between a customer designated premises where the network is accessed and (1) another customer designated premises, in the same SMARTPath service Area or (2) a serving wire center in the same SMARTPath service Area for connection to (a) MegaLink Channel Service, FlexServ service, or LightGate service, or (b) a SMARTPath service Area Junction of another SMARTPath service area in the same Metropolitan Area.
 - 2. The performance objectives for SMARTPath service are as follows:
 - a. Meet or exceed 99.99 percent Circuit Availability on a monthly basis. This objective applies except where a customer's equipment is disconnected and/or inoperative.
 - b. Meet or exceed 99.95 percent Error Free Seconds on a monthly basis.
 - c. Meet or exceed .009 percent Severely Errored Seconds on a monthly basis.

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.9 MegaLink Plus Service

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D, effective November 1, 2025, MegaLink Plus Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existing term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

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B7.9.1 General

- A. MegaLink Plus service is furnished for Private Line IntraLATA Communications by the Company.
- B. MegaLink Plus service is a service for transmission of digital signals only and uses only digital transmission facilities.
- C. MegaLink Plus service is a fiber-based high capacity network service providing a 1.544 Mbps transport link with high performance and reliability parameters. This service utilizes structurally diverse loop facilities designed to limit single points of failure between a customer's location and its normal serving wire center.
- D. MegaLink Plus service is available to customer locations where existing loop facilities are fiber-based and utilize structurally diverse routes. For locations where loop facilities are not available to satisfy customer requests for MegaLink Plus service, special construction charges will apply as set forth in Section B5. preceding.
- E. The technical specifications and standard network interfaces for MegaLink Plus service are contained in Technical Reference Publication 73525. This publication is available from Regional Documentation Services, 600 North 19th Street, 20th Floor, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

B7.9.2 Terms and Conditions

A. Description of Service

1. MegaLink Plus service utilizes a self-healing diverse fiber-based local channel (loop) transport link between a customer designated premises and the normal serving wire center.
2. MegaLink Plus service is furnished on a link (partial) basis for connection at the normal serving wire center to another MegaLink Plus service, an ESSX service¹, MegaLink channel service, FlexServ service, LightGate service, or SMARTRing service. Connectivity between MegaLink Plus service and these other services may be provided via a MegaLink service Interoffice Channel between central offices.
3. All appropriate rates, charges, **terms and conditions** specified in other **guidebook** sections for connected services are in addition to those for MegaLink Plus service specified in this **guidebook**.
4. Performance objectives for MegaLink Plus service between the customer's location and the serving wire center are as follows:
 - a. Meet or exceed 99.98 percent Circuit Availability.
 - b. Meet or exceed 99.95 percent Error Free Seconds.
 - c. Meet or exceed .010 Severely Errored Seconds.

The objectives apply except when a customer's equipment and/or cabling is disconnected and/or inoperative, or when a MegaLink service Interoffice Channel is used in conjunction with a MegaLink Plus service Local Channel. Consult TR73525 for additional information concerning service performance objectives.

5. Performance guarantees for MegaLink Plus service are as follows:

a. Service Installation

The Company will meet negotiated due date or credit an amount equal to the month-to-month payment plan nonrecurring charge according to the Service Installation Guarantee provisions described in B2.4.17 preceding.

b. Service Continuity

In the event of primary failure, service is guaranteed to switch to an alternate facility path in sixty seconds or less. Failure to meet this guarantee will result in a credit as described in B7.9.2.E.3. following where the trouble is in the local loop facility on public right-of-way.

B. Definitions

MEGALINK PLUS SERVICE LOCAL CHANNEL - The MegaLink Plus Service Local Channel provides for the connection between a customer's designated premises to their serving wire center.

C. Application of Rates

1. Monthly rates and charges as specified in B7.9.3.A. following apply for each MegaLink Plus service local channel.
2. Recurring and nonrecurring rates and charges apply for each MegaLink Plus service. Nonrecurring charges will not apply for the MegaLink Plus service Local Channel rate element when MegaLink Plus service is furnished under a payment plan other than month-to-month. Available payment plans are described in 3. following.

Note 1: Connection from MegaLink Plus service to ESSX service may not be available from all serving wire centers.

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.10 MegaLink Light Service

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D, effective November 1, 2025, MegaLink Light Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existing term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

(N)

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B7.10.1 General

- A. MegaLink Light service is furnished for Private Line IntraLATA Communications by the Company.
- B. MegaLink Light service is a service for transmission of digital signals only and uses only digital transmission facilities.
- C. MegaLink Light service is a fiber-based high capacity network service providing a 1.544 Mbps (DS1) transport link.
- D. MegaLink Light service provides for the simultaneous two-way transmission of serial, Bipolar Return-to-Zero (BPRZ) isochronous digital signals, except where intentional bipolar violations are introduced by Bipolar with 8 Zero Substitution (B8ZS) format, at DS1 speeds of 1.544 Mbps, and is available to customer locations where existing loop facilities are fiber-based. The rates specified for MegaLink Light service in B.7.10.3 following, contemplate the provision of a digital quality facility via existing exchange facilities compatible with this service. When MegaLink Light service is requested at locations where loop facilities are not available to satisfy customer requests for MegaLink Light service, special construction charges will apply as set forth in Section B5. preceding.
- E. The performance objectives, technical specifications and standard network interfaces for MegaLink Light service are contained in Technical Reference Publication 73525. The performance objectives apply except when a customer's equipment and/or cabling is disconnected and/or inoperative, when customer provided power is disconnected and/or inoperative, or when a MegaLink Light service is extended beyond its normal Serving Wire Center. TR 73525 is available from Regional Documentation Services, 600 North 19th Street, 20th Floor, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.
- F. Unless specified following, the *terms and conditions* for MegaLink Light service specified herein apply in addition to the *terms and conditions* set forth in Section B2. preceding.

B7.10.2 Terms and Conditions

- A. Description of Service
 - 1. MegaLink Light service utilizes a fiber-based local channel (loop) transport link between a customer designated premises and its normal serving wire center.
 - 2. MegaLink Light service is furnished on a link (partial channel) basis for connection at the normal serving wire center to Centrex Type Services¹, MegaLink channel service, FlexServ service, LightGate service or SMARTring service. Connectivity between MegaLink Light service and these other services may be provided via a MegaLink service Interoffice Channel between central offices. Except for MegaLink service and MegaLink Plus service, those services connectable to a MegaLink service Interoffice Channel or a MegaLink Light service Local Channel may be utilized for completion of a customer's point-to-point channel service.
 - 3. All appropriate rates, charges, *terms and conditions* specified in other *guidebook* sections for connected services are in addition to those for MegaLink Light service specified in this *guidebook*.
 - 4. Performance objectives for MegaLink Light service between the customer's location and the serving wire center are as specified in Technical Reference Publication #73525.
 - 5. Performance guarantees for MegaLink Light service are as follows:
 - a. Service Installation
The Company will meet negotiated due date or credit an amount equal to the month-to-month payment plan nonrecurring charge according to the Service Installation Guarantee provisions described in B2.4.17 preceding.
 - b. Service Continuity
Service outages in the local loop facility, will result in a credit as described in E.3. following where the trouble is in the local loop facility on public right-of-way.

Note 1: Connection from MegaLink Light service to Centrex Type Services may not be available from all serving wire centers.