

TARIFF DISTRIBUTION

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PURPOSE: Business DS1 (MegaLink) and DS3 (LightGate), RCF and
Miscellaneous Services grandfathering

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A13. MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

A13.10 Reserved For Future Use

A13.11 Remote Call Forwarding Service

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section A2.3.1.E, effective November 1, 2025, Remote Call Forwarding Service described in this Section 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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This service receives promotional pricing treatment as described in *paragraph* A2.3.26.

A13.11.1 General

- A. Remote Call Forwarding (RCF) is a service whereby a call placed from a station (the originating station) to a Remote Call Forwarding number in one exchange (the call forwarding location) is automatically forwarded by Company central office equipment to another station designated by the RCF customer (the terminating station). This service is only available where the call forwarding location is served by an electronic central office and is offered subject to availability of suitable facilities. Where the call forwarding location is in a multi-office exchange, the Company will determine the serving central office.
- B. One listing in the Directory covering the exchange in which the call forwarding number is located is provided without additional charge per Remote Call Forwarding Service or group of such services.
- C. Remote Call Forwarding Service is provided on the condition that the customer subscribe to a sufficient number of Call Forwarding Service features and remote terminating facilities to adequately handle calls to the call forwarding customer without interfering with or impairing any services offered by the Company. If in the opinion of the Company, additional Remote Call Forwarding features at the call forwarding location or facilities at the terminating station line are needed, the customer will, where appropriate, be required to subscribe to such additional RCF features and facilities. In the event the customer refuses to subscribe to such additional RCF features and facilities, said customer's RCF service shall be subject to termination.
- D. Remote Call Forwarding Service provides for handling only one call at a time. An additional service feature is required for each additional coincident call to be handled.
- E. Transmission quality may vary depending on the distance and routing necessary to complete a call. Since RCF service "tandems" two calls into one call, normal transmission quality is not assured for calls forwarded via RCF. Nonetheless, the resulting transmission performance will generally meet the RCF customer's voice-grade needs. Service arrangements which tandem more than two calls into one, are more likely to result in unacceptable transmission quality. Therefore, the Company will not knowingly forward calls via RCF to another service, arranged for permanent call forwarding. This policy can be administered only at the time RCF is ordered, and applies only in the forwarding direction. The services to which RCF calls are forwarded are provided independent of the RCF service and may not be within the Company's jurisdiction. Further, such services can be changed subsequent to the provision of an RCF service. Consequently, it is impractical to assure that such increased tandem forwarding never occurs. Where the Company is aware of such a service configuration, it reserves the right to modify such arrangements. Modifications may include, but are not limited to, changing the associated forwarded-to number or termination of the RCF service. The RCF customer will be responsible for normal charges for such changes.
- F. RCF service is not offered where the terminating number is a coin telephone.
- G. A list of calls will be furnished the Remote Call Forwarding Service customer itemizing each toll call completed. The number of the calling or originating station is not provided on this list.
- H. Where a business directory listing is provided for the RCF number, calls will not be forwarded to a Company-provided service for which residential rates apply.
- I. The Company does not guarantee identification of the originating number to the RCF customer.
- J. Remote Call Forwarding is not represented as suitable for satisfactory transmission of data.

Note 1: Rates for Star 98 Access have been moved to *paragraph* A13.9.3.

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.1 MegaLink Service

Except as otherwise indicate for Wire Centers in Section B.2.1.4.C, effective November 1, 2025, MegaLink Service described in this Section 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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B7.1.1 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 between customer locations within a LATA.
- D. To ensure satisfactory operation, the terminal equipment provided by the customer must be compatible with the DS1/1.544 Mbps channel facility provided by the Company. The technical specifications and standard network interfaces for DS1 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 herein, 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 contemplate the provision of a digital quality facility over 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 based on the cost incurred to make the changes 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, 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 periods with rates based on lengths of 12 months³, 24-48 months^{1,2}, 49-72 months¹ or 73-96 months¹, 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.
 - 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, Contract Terms 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

B7.3 MegaLink Channel Service

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section A2.3.1.E, effective November 1, 2025, MegaLink Channel Service described in this Section 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 network access, foreign exchange, Centrex Type service station lines. WATS lines, off-premises stations, tie lines, analog data channels, Broadband Exchange Lines and digital data service (at 2.4Kbps, 4.8Kbps, 9.6 Kbps, 19.2 Kbps, 56 Kbps, 64 Kbps and 1.544 Mbps data rates).
- B. Channelization is provided by D type channel banks which are offered in various basic system capacities and feature activation types. Individual channel services are made available by selecting the specific feature activation equipment desired in a basic system. The customer may channelize all or part of a MegaLink channel service package to activate voice and data facilities for interconnection with the exchange network, voice grade and data facilities for private line channels, as well as other MegaLink channel services. The customer may also choose not to channelize all or part of a MegaLink channel service package allowing direct connection to other DS1 services as provided in this Guidebook or the General Exchange Guidebook.
- C. This service is available within a LATA from wire centers where appropriate digital facilities are available as determined by the Company. Also, when exchange services are desired, wire centers must have Local Measured Service available as well as digital facilities. Service inquiries will be necessary to determine availability. Special Construction charges for MegaLink service will apply as specified in B7.1.
- D. Individual channels within a MegaLink channel service package may be connected with service offered in other sections of the Private Line Guidebook and General Exchange Guidebook as appropriate. The terms, conditions, rates and charges in this Guidebook are applicable for the MegaLink channel service component of the customer's end-to-end service. Single channel service components (non-MegaLink channel service links) are subject to the terms, conditions, rates and charges in their respective guidebook sections.
- E. The customer may activate any number or combination of channels within a MegaLink channel service package within the limitations set forth in paragraph F. Channels may be activated coincident with initial service or at any time subsequent to basic system installation. Once activated, a channel is subject to a minimum service period in accordance with the contract terms. Features (channels) activated under month-to-month rates will have a minimum service period of one month.
- F. The total number of voice grade equivalent channels activated by the customer may not exceed the capacity of the basic system. Additionally, there are some necessary restrictions in total system capacities where certain types of channel services are channelized. For example, some channelizing equipment for SynchroNet service¹ may require two voice equivalent channels per channel provided by the Company. This would reduce a system's stated capacity substantially. The Company will notify the customer when a system's capacity is affected.
- G. Central Office channelization generally provides analog to digital conversion to permit individual exchange services and private line channel services to be transported over digital high capacity facilities. In addition, this equipment permits connection to required testing facilities at designated hub or node locations for some digital offerings, such as SynchroNet service. This channelization is also intended for use at Company locations where different high capacity digital network links terminate in the same central office and must be converted to individual analog or digital channels before individual service links can be cross-connected. System capacities below are provided in groups of 24 voice grade equivalent channels, and are subject to the limits as set forth in paragraph F.

Note 1: Effective June 30, 2021, SynchroNet Service is obsolete. See B107.2 for service availability.

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.4 LightGate Service

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section B.2.1.4.C, 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.

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B7.4.1 General

(DELETED)

- 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 DS1, DS3, 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 switched 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

(DELETED)

B7.6 Distance Learning Video Transport Service

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section A2.3.1.E, effective November 1, 2025, Distance Learning Video Transport Service described in this Section 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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B7.6.1 General

Pursuant to Tennessee Public Service Commission Order No. 91-07159, this *guidebook* offering provides DS1 transport service only to educational institutions that will use the service for classroom instruction.

B7.6.2 Terms and Conditions

- A. This offering is available to full-time educational institutions that are eligible for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is to be used for classroom instruction. This *Guidebook* is also available to public libraries including the state library and archives, regional libraries, and public libraries in any county, city or town.
- B. Unless otherwise specified, all *terms and conditions* for MegaLink service, as contained in B7.1, apply.

B7.6.3 Types of Rates and Charges

- A. The two types of rates and charges are monthly rates and nonrecurring charges and are described as follows:
 - 1. Monthly Rates are recurring charges that apply each month or fraction thereof that a service is provided. For billing purposes, each month is considered to have 30 days. Monthly rates for Distance Learning Video Transport service are set forth in B7.6.4.
 - 2. Nonrecurring Charges are one-time charges that apply for a specific work activity. A description of the three types of nonrecurring charges and the associated charges are set forth in B7.1.
- B. Following are the basic monthly rate elements which apply to Distance Learning Video Transport service.
 - 1. A digital local channel provides for a communication path between a designated customer premises and the serving wire center. A monthly rate applies for the digital local channel.

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.8 SMARTPath Service

Except as otherwise indicated for Wire Centers in Section A2.3.1.E, effective November 1, 2025, SMARTPath Service described in this Section 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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B7.8.1 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.
- 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. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.9 MegaLink Plus Service

Except as otherwise indicate for Wire Centers in Section B.2.1.4.C, 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.
- 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 (**99.98%**) Circuit Availability.
 - b. Meet or exceed 99.95 percent (**99.95%**) Error Free Seconds.
 - c. Meet or exceed .010 **percent (.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 follow:
 - 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.
 - 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 E.3 where the trouble is in the local loop facility on public right-of-way.

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 B.2.1.4.C, 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.

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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 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.
- 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.

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 follow:
 - 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.
 - b. Service Continuity
Service outages in the local loop facility will result in a credit as described in *paragraph* E.3, 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.