

exchanged during the term of this Agreement. Thereafter, the Parties' rights and obligations hereunder survive and continue in effect with respect to any Information that is a trade secret under applicable law.

10.8 Assignments

10.9 Any assignment by either Party to any non-affiliated entity of any right, obligation or duty, or of any other interest hereunder, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the other Party shall be void. A Party may assign this Agreement or any right, obligation, duty or other interest hereunder to an Affiliate of the Party without the consent of the other Party; provided, however, that the assigning Party shall notify the other Party in writing of such assignment thirty (30) days prior to the Effective Date thereof and, provided further, if the assignee is an assignee of Cinergy Communications Company, the assignee must provide evidence of Commission CLEC certification. The Parties shall amend this Agreement to reflect such assignments and shall work cooperatively to implement any changes required due to such assignment. All obligations and duties of any Party under this Agreement shall be binding on all successors in interest and assigns of such Party. No assignment or delegation hereof shall relieve the assignor of its obligations under this Agreement in the event that the assignee fails to perform such obligations.

11. **Resolution of Disputes**

11.1 Except as otherwise stated in this Agreement, if any dispute arises as to the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement or as to the proper implementation of this Agreement, the aggrieved Party shall petition the Commission for a resolution of the dispute. For issues over which the Commission does not have authority, the Parties may avail themselves of any available legal remedies in the appropriate forum. However, each Party reserves any rights it may have to seek judicial review of any ruling made by the Commission concerning this Agreement. Furthermore, the Parties agree to carry on their respective obligations under this Agreement, while any dispute resolution is pending.

12. **Taxes**

12.1 Definition. For purposes of this Section, the terms "taxes" and "fees" shall include but not limited to federal, state or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts or other taxes or tax-like fees of whatever nature and however designated (including tariff surcharges and any fees, charges or other payments, contractual or otherwise, for the use of public streets or rights of way, whether designated as franchise fees or otherwise) imposed, or sought to be imposed, on or with respect to the services furnished hereunder or measured by the charges or payments therefore, excluding any taxes levied on income.

16.1 BellSouth shall make available, pursuant to 47 USC § 252 and the FCC rules and regulations regarding such availability, to Cinergy Communications Company any interconnection agreement filed and approved pursuant to 47 USC § 252, during the original term of such Agreement. BellSouth shall also make available, pursuant to 47 USC § 252 and the FCC rules and regulations regarding such availability, to Cinergy Communications Company any interconnection service, network element, or combination of network elements provided under any other agreement filed and approved pursuant to 47 USC § 252 during the original term of such agreement. The Parties shall adopt all rates, terms and conditions concerning such other interconnection, service or network element and any other rates, terms and conditions that are legitimately related to or were negotiated in exchange for or in conjunction with the interconnection, service or network element being adopted. The adopted interconnection, service, network element, or combination of network elements and agreement shall apply to the same states as such other agreement. The term of the adopted agreement or provisions shall expire on the same date as set forth in the agreement which was adopted.

17. Modification of Agreement

17.1 If Cinergy Communications Company changes its name or makes changes to its company structure or identity due to a merger, acquisition, transfer or any other reason, it is the responsibility of Cinergy Communications Company to notify BellSouth of said change and request that an amendment to this Agreement, if necessary, be executed to reflect said change.

17.2 No modification, amendment, supplement to, or waiver of the Agreement or any of its provisions shall be effective and binding upon the Parties unless it is made in writing and duly signed by the Parties.

17.3 In the event that any effective legislative, regulatory, judicial or other legal action materially affects any material terms of this Agreement, or the ability of Cinergy Communications Company or BellSouth to perform any material terms of this Agreement, Cinergy Communications Company or BellSouth may, on fifteen (15) days' written notice require that such terms be renegotiated, and the Parties shall renegotiate in good faith such mutually acceptable new terms as may be required. In the event that such new terms are not renegotiated within sixty (60) days after such notice, the Dispute shall be referred to the Dispute Resolution procedure set forth in this Agreement.

17.4 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, this Agreement shall not be amended or modified after the expiration date hereof as set forth in Section 2 above.

18. Non-waiver of Legal Rights

18.1 Execution of this Agreement by either Party does not confirm or infer that the executing Party agrees with any decision(s) issued pursuant to the