# Dinsmore & Shohl

ATTOR Helly C. Wallace
(502) 540-2309 (Direct Dial)
holly.wallace@dinslaw.com

JUN 14 2006

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

June 14, 2006

# VIA HAND-DELIVERY

Ms. Beth O'Donnell Executive Director Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: Interconnection Agreement between Duo County Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. and Sprint Communications Company, L.P.

Dear Ms. O'Donnell:

Duo County Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. ("Duo County"), on behalf of itself and Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("Sprint"), hereby submits one original and four (4) copies of the enclosed interconnection agreement (the "Agreement") for approval by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (the "Commission") by operation of law pursuant to the ninety (90) day statutory process contemplated in 47 U.S.C. sec. 252(e)(4). This Agreement was reached through voluntary negotiations without resort to mediation or arbitration and is submitted for approval pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act").

Sections 252(e)(2) of the Act directs that a state Commission may reject an agreement reached through voluntary negotiations only if the Commission finds that:

- (1) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
- (2) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

The Parties to the Agreement respectfully submit that the Agreement provides no basis for either of these findings and, thus, request that the Commission approve the Agreement by operation of law pursuant to the ninety (90) day statutory process. The Agreement does not discriminate

Ms. Beth O'Donnell June 14, 2006 Page 2

against any other telecommunications carriers. The Agreement is also consistent with the public interest as identified in the pro-competitive policies of the Commission, the U.S. Congress, and the Federal Communications Commission.

Thank you, and if you have any questions, please contact me at (502) 540-2300.

Sincerely,

Holly C√Wallace

HCW/kwi Enclosures

cc: William Magruder (w/encl.)

John E. Selent, Esq. (w/encl.) Tip Depp, Esq. (w/encl.)

111043v1



# **AGREEMENT**

By and Between

DUO COUNTY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

And

SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.

#### PREFACE

This Agreement ("Agreement") shall be deemed effective upon approval by the Commission (the "Effective Date"), between DUO County Telephone Cooperative ("DUO"), a corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, with offices at 2150 N. Main St., Jamestown, Kentucky and Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("SPRINT"), a limited partnership organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with offices at 6200 Sprint Parkway, Overland Park, KS 66251 (SPRINT and DUO may be referred to hereinafter, each, individually as a "Party," and, collectively, as the "Parties").

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to establish interconnection arrangements for the purpose of exchanging traffic that is within the scope of this Agreement, and

WHEREAS, the Parties are entering into this Agreement to set forth the respective obligations of the Parties and the terms and conditions under which they will interconnect their networks and provide other services.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the terms and conditions contained herein, DUO and SPRINT hereby mutually agree as follows:

#### GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

# Scope of this Agreement

- 1.1 This Agreement includes: the Principal Document, ("General Terms and Conditions"), including Attachments A ("Glossary of Terms"); B ("Additional Services"); C ("Interconnection and Number Portability"); and D ("Pricing"); and Appendix A (""Designation of Interconnection Point(s), Compensation, Charges, Directory Listing Services"). This Agreement specifies the rights and obligations of each Party with respect to the establishment of Local Interconnection within the incumbent service area of DUO. Certain terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings defined in the Glossary of Terms, or as otherwise elsewhere defined throughout this Agreement. Other terms used but not defined herein will have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act, in the FCC's, and in the Commission's Rules and Regulations.
- 1.2 This Agreement may be used by SPRINT to provide services to SPRINT Customers, including via a SPRINT wholesale arrangement with a third party last mile provider. All Customer traffic that SPRINT delivers to DUO is treated under this Agreement as SPRINT Traffic, and all billing associated with such traffic will be in the name of SPRINT subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 1.3 Each Party hereby incorporates by reference, to the extent applicable, those provisions of its Tariffs that govern the provision of any of the services or facilities provided hereunder. The fact that a condition, right, obligation, or other term appears in this Agreement but not in any such Tariff shall not be interpreted as, or be deemed grounds for finding, a conflict for purposes of this Section. If any provision of this Agreement and an applicable Tariff cannot be reasonably construed or interpreted to avoid conflict, the provision contained in this Agreement shall prevail. If any provision contained in these General Terms and Conditions of the Agreement and any attachment or appendix hereto cannot be reasonably construed or interpreted to avoid conflict, the provision contained in the attachment or appendix shall prevail.
- 1.4 Except as otherwise provided herein, no term and condition of the Agreement may be waived or modified except by a written document that is signed by the Parties. Subject to the requirements of Applicable Law, a Party shall have the right to add, modify, or withdraw, its Tariff(s) at any time, without the consent of, or notice to, the other Party.
- 1.5 Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, a Party may purchase services from the other Party pursuant to that other Party's Tariff(s). In such instances, the rates, terms, and conditions of the other Party's applicable Tariff(s) shall apply.

## 2. Regulatory Approvals

2.1 This Agreement, and any amendment or modification hereof, will be submitted to the Commission for approval of the Parties within thirty (30) Days after obtaining the last

required Agreement signature. SPRINT and DUO shall use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain approval of this Agreement by the Commission. In the event any governmental authority or agency rejects any provision hereof, the Parties shall negotiate promptly and in good faith such revisions as may reasonably be required to achieve such approval.

#### 3. Term and Termination

- 3.1 This Agreement shall be effective as of the Effective Date and, unless cancelled or terminated earlier in accordance with the terms hereof, shall continue in effect for a period of 2 years (24 months) after the Effective Date of this Agreement (the "Initial Term"). Thereafter, this Agreement shall renew automatically for successive six (6) month terms (each such term a "Renewal Term"), commencing on the anniversary of the Effective Date and continuing in force and effect unless and until terminated as provided in this Agreement.
- 3.2 Either DUO or SPRINT may terminate this Agreement effective upon the expiration of the Initial Term or a subsequent Renewal Term by providing no less than ninety (90) days prior written notice to the other party.
- 3.3 In the event of such termination, and provided the terminating party has, prior to termination of this Agreement, given written notice of its intent to negotiate a new interconnection agreement with the non-terminating party, those service arrangements made available under this Agreement and existing at the time of termination shall continue without interruption until a replacement agreement has been executed by the Parties either (a) under a new agreement voluntarily executed by the Parties; (b) under a new agreement negotiated pursuant to the provisions of the Act; or c) under any agreement that may be available according to the provisions of Section 252(i) of the Act, but in no case will the existing service arrangements continue for longer than 180 days after the termination date.
- 3.4 If either DUO or SPRINT provides notice of termination pursuant to Section 3 and, by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the proposed date of termination, neither DUO nor SPRINT has requested negotiation of a new interconnection agreement, (a) this Agreement will terminate upon the expiration of the Initial Term or Renewal Term, as applicable, and (b) the Services being provided under this Agreement at the time of termination will be terminated in accordance with the requirements of the Commission and Applicable Law.

## 4. Attachments and Appendices

The following Attachments are a part of this Agreement and are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein:

Attachment A -- GLOSSARY OF TERMS
Attachment B -- ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Attachment C -- INTERCONNECTION AND NUMBER PORTABILITY

Attachment D -- PRICING

Appendix A -- DESIGNATION OF INTERCONNECTION POINT(S),

COMPENSATION, CHARGES, DIRECTORY LISTING

**SERVICES** 

# 5. Applicable Law

- 5.1 The construction, interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by (a) the laws of the United States of America and (b) the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including but not limited to the Act, the rules, regulations and orders of the FCC and the Commission, and any orders and decisions of a court of competent jurisdiction. All disputes relating to this Agreement shall be resolved through the application of such laws through the process(es) described in the Dispute Resolution section (Section 15) of this Agreement.
- 5.2 Each Party shall, at all times, comply with Applicable Law in the course of performing this Agreement.
- 5.3 Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance caused or required by Applicable Law, or the acts or failures to act of any governmental entity or official (to the extent such acts or failures to act were not caused or solicited by either Party).
- 5.4 If any provision of this Agreement shall be invalid or unenforceable under Applicable Law, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision of this Agreement; provided, that if the invalid or unenforceable provision is a material provision of this Agreement, or the invalidity or unenforceability materially affects the rights or obligations of a Party hereunder or the ability of a Party to perform any material provision of this Agreement, the Parties shall promptly renegotiate in good faith and amend in writing this Agreement in order to make such mutually acceptable revisions to this Agreement as may be required in order to conform the Agreement to Applicable Law.
- 5.5 If any final and unstayed legislative, regulatory, judicial or other governmental decision, order, determination or action, or any change in Applicable Law, materially affects any material provision of this Agreement, the rights or obligations of a Party hereunder, or the ability of a Party to perform any material provision of this Agreement, the Parties shall promptly renegotiate in good faith and amend in writing this Agreement in order to make such mutually acceptable revisions to this Agreement as may be required in order to conform the Agreement to Applicable Law.
- 5.6 In the event of any change in Applicable Law that requires that this Agreement be amended, either Party may, by providing written notice to the other Party, require that the affected provisions of this Agreement be renegotiated in good faith and this Agreement shall be amended accordingly to reflect any pricing, terms and conditions

required by any such change in Applicable Law. The effective date of any amendment made as a result of this Section 5.6 shall be the date of the written notice requesting such amendment, unless an earlier date is provided by the Applicable Law that gives rise to the request for the amendment.

5.7 Notwithstanding any other provision of the Agreement, neither Party shall be obligated to offer or provide any service, facility, or interconnection arrangement to the other Party that is not required by Applicable Law. To the extent that some service, facility, or interconnection arrangement provided by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement is determined not to be required by Applicable Law, then the providing Party upon 90 days written notice to the other Party may discontinue the provision of such service, facility, or interconnection arrangement. To the extent the discontinued service or interconnection arrangement is available under prevailing Tariffs from the Providing Party, then the Purchasing Party, may, at its option, obtain such services, facilities, or interconnection arrangements pursuant to the terms of such Tariffs. If the other Party disputes the providing Party's interpretation of what may be required under Applicable Law under the relevant facts, the Parties will resolve the disagreement pursuant to the processes set forth in Section 15 ("Dispute Resolution"), or either Party may, without delay and without participating in the dispute resolution process pursuant to Section 15, immediately pursue any available legal or regulatory remedy to resolve any question regarding what the providing Party is required to provide under Applicable Law.

# 6. Assignment

6.1 Either Party may, upon at least sixty (60) days prior written notice and with the other Party's prior written consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, assign this Agreement to an entity with which it is under common ownership and/or control. For purposes of this section, it shall be deemed "reasonable" for the non-assigning party to withhold consent to a proposed assignment if the proposed assignee does not provide the non-assigning party with sufficient evidence that it has the resources, ability, and authority to satisfactorily perform pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. Any attempted assignment or delegation in violation of this section shall be void and ineffective and constitute a default of this Agreement by the party attempting such assignment or delegation. This Agreement shall be binding on and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective legal successors and permitted assignee.

## 7. Assurance of Performance

- 7.1 When reasonable grounds for insecurity arise with respect to the ability of either Party to perform its obligations pursuant to this Agreement, the other Party may in writing demand adequate assurance of due performance.
- 7.1.1 Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the assurance of payment shall consist of a cash security deposit in U.S. dollars or an unconditional, irrevocable standby letter of credit in an amount equal to two (2) months anticipated charges (including, but not

Page 5 of 46

limited to, both recurring and non-recurring charges), as reasonably determined by the Party demanding assurance, for the Services to be provided by the party demanding assurance to the other Party in connection with this Agreement.

- 7.2 The reasonableness of grounds for insecurity and the adequacy of any assurance offered shall be determined according to Telecommunications industry standards. Reasonable grounds for insecurity include, but are not limited to: (a) a Party has sought a voluntary receivership or bankruptcy (or had a receivership or bankruptcy proceeding initiated against it); (b) the failure of a Party to demonstrate that it is creditworthy after the execution of this Agreement, (c) the failure of a Party to timely pay a bill or perform a service or obligation as required by this Agreement, or (d) a Party admits its inability to pay debts as such debts become due.
- 7.3 Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, after receipt of a justified demand, a Party shall have thirty (30) days to provide assurance of due performance.
- 7.4 To the extent that a cash deposit may be required, the Parties intend that the provision of such deposit shall constitute the grant of a security interest in the deposit pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code as in effect in any relevant jurisdiction.
- 7.5 A cash deposit required under this Section shall accrue interest at a rate equal to the six (6) month U.S. Treasury Bill rate.
- 7.6 To the extent that a letter of credit or cash deposit is required under this Section, the Party holding such letter of credit or cash deposit may (but is not obligated to) draw on the letter of credit or cash deposit, as applicable, upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Party providing such letter of credit or cash deposit in order to pay any amounts that are past-due from the Party providing such assurance of performance.
- 7.7 If a Party draws on the letter of credit or cash deposit provided by the other Party, the Party providing such assurance of performance shall provide a replacement or supplemental letter of credit or cash deposit in order to fully replenish the required assurance of performance within fifteen (15) days thereof.
- 7.8 Notwithstanding anything else set forth in this Agreement, if a Party makes a request for assurance of performance in accordance with the terms of this Section, and the other Party fails to provide adequate assurance of due performance in accordance with the terms of this Section, then such failure to provide assurance of performance in accordance with the terms of this Agreement shall be considered a material breach of the Agreement, entitling the Party requesting assurance of performance to suspend its own performance under the Agreement until such time as the other Party provides such assurance of performance in accordance with this Section 8.
- 7.9 The fact that assurance of performance is requested by a Party hereunder shall in no way relieve the other Party from compliance with the requirements of this Agreement, nor constitute a waiver or modification of any terms of this Agreement.

#### 8. Audits

- 8.1 Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, either Party ("Auditing Party") may audit the other Party's ("Audited Party") records for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of the Audited Party's bills and compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Such audits may be performed once in each Calendar Year; provided, however, that audits may be conducted more frequently (but no more frequently than once in each Calendar Quarter) if an immediately preceding audit found previously uncorrected net inaccuracies in billing in favor of the Auditing Party having an aggregate value of at least \$50,000 for any consecutive 12-month period.
- 8.2 Prior to commencing the audit, the auditors shall execute an agreement with the Audited Party in a form reasonably acceptable to the Audited Party that protects the confidentiality of the information disclosed by the Audited Party to the auditors. The audit shall take place at a time and place agreed upon by the Parties; provided, that the Auditing Party may require that the audit commence no later than sixty (60) days after the Auditing Party has given notice of the audit to the Audited Party.
- 8.3 Each Party shall cooperate fully in any such audit, providing reasonable access to any and all records reasonably necessary to assess the accuracy of the Audited Party's bills.
- 8.4 Audits shall be performed at the Auditing Party's expense, provided that there shall be no charge for reasonable access to the Audited Party's records (to assess the accuracy of the Audited Party's bills) in the format in which such records are stored by the Audited Party. In the event the auditors discover previously uncorrected net inaccuracies in billing in favor of the Auditing Party and those previously uncorrected net inaccuracies have an aggregate value of at least \$50,000 for any consecutive 12-month period, the Audited Party shall reimburse the Auditing Party for the cost of the audit and any out-of-pocket expenses associated with the audit.

#### 9. Authorization

- 9.1 DUO represents that it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations under this Agreement.
- 9.2 SPRINT represents that it is a limited partnership duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations under this Agreement.
- 9.3 SPRINT shall not place any orders under this Agreement until it has obtained such authorization as may be required by Applicable Law, and SPRINT shall cease placing any orders under this Agreement in the event any such authorization required by

Applicable Law lapses or is cancelled, terminated, or otherwise ceases to exist. SPRINT shall provide proof of such authorization to DUO upon request.

- 10. Billing and Payment; Disputed Amounts
- 10.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Party shall bill the other Party on a monthly basis in an itemized format. The Parties shall also exchange billing information to process claims and adjustments as between themselves and on behalf of their Customers.
- 10.2 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, payment of amounts billed for Services provided under this Agreement, whether billed on a monthly basis or as otherwise provided in this Agreement, shall be due, in immediately available U.S. funds, within thirty (30) Calendar Days of the Purchasing Party's receipt of the invoice or forty-five (45) Calendar Days from the invoice date, whichever is sooner (the "Due Date"). If a Party does not receive a bill at least twenty (20) days prior to the thirty (30) day payment Due Date, then the bill shall be considered delayed if the billed Party makes written request for an extension of the payment Due Date, which extension shall be identical in term to the number of days the bill was delayed. Such requests for a delay of the payment Due Date must be accompanied with proof of late bill receipt.
- If any portion of an amount billed by a Party under this Agreement is subject to a good faith dispute between the Parties, the billed Party shall give written notice to the billing Party of the amounts it disputes ("Disputed Amounts") and include in such notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item. Notice of a dispute may be given by a Party at any time, either before or after an amount is paid, and a Party's payment of an amount shall not constitute a waiver of such Party's right to subsequently dispute its obligation to pay such amount or to seek a refund of any amount paid. Subject to a party's right to timely Audit pursuant to Section 8 and appropriate adjustment based upon such Audit, if the billed party fails to provide a notice of dispute within thirty (30) days of the payment Due Date for the amount in question and no timely Audit by the billed party occurs for the period in which payment is made, then the billed party shall be deemed to have irrevocably waived any disputes as to those amounts. The billed Party shall pay by the Due Date all undisputed amounts. Billing disputes shall be subject to Dispute Resolution under the terms of this Agreement. If the billing dispute is resolved, in whole or in part, in favor of the billed Party, any credits and interest due to the billed Party as a result thereof shall be applied to the billed Party's account by the billing Party during the next applicable billing cycle. If the billing dispute is resolved, in whole or in part, in favor of the billing Party, the billed Party will, within ten (10) days, make immediate payment of any withheld amounts and any late payment charges and interest, where applicable, to the billing Party.
- 10.4 Undisputed charges due to the billing Party that are not paid by the Due Date shall be subject to a late payment charge. The late payment charge shall be in an amount specified by the billing Party which shall not exceed a rate of one-and-one-half percent (1.5%) of the overdue amount (including any unpaid previously billed late payment charges) per month.

- 10.5 Although it is the intent of both Parties to submit timely statements of charges, failure by either Party to present statements to the other Party in a timely manner shall not constitute a breach or default, or a waiver of the right to payment of the incurred charges, by the billing Party under this Agreement, and, except for assertion of a provision of Applicable Law that limits the period in which a suit or other proceeding can be brought before a court or other governmental entity of appropriate jurisdiction to collect amounts due, the billed Party shall not be entitled to dispute the billing Party's statement(s) based on the billing Party's failure to submit them in a timely fashion.
- 10.6 All usage data and invoices to be provided pursuant to this Agreement shall be sent to the following addresses:

To DUO: Duo County Telephone Cooperative

Attn: Chief Exec. Officer

P.O. Box 80 2150 N. Main St. Jamestown, KY 42629

To SPRINT: Sprint Communications

MAILSTOP: KSOPHL0412 6500 Sprint Parkway Overland Park, KS 66251

#### 11. Confidentiality

11.1 Both Parties agree that it may be necessary to provide each other during the term of this Agreement with certain confidential information, including, but not limited to, trade secrets, technical and business plans, technical information, proposals, specifications, drawings, procedures, customer account data, call detail records and like information (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Proprietary Information"). Proprietary Information shall remain the property of the disclosing Party. Both Parties agree that all Proprietary Information shall be in writing or other tangible form and clearly marked with a confidential, private or proprietary legend and that the Proprietary Information will be returned to the owner within a reasonable time upon request of the disclosing Party. Both Parties garee that the Proprietary Information shall be utilized by the non-disclosing Party only to the extent necessary to fulfill the terms of this Agreement or upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the Parties in writing, and for no other purpose. Both Parties agree to receive such Proprietary Information and not to disclose such Proprietary Information. Both Parties agree to protect the Proprietary Information received from distribution, disclosure or dissemination to anyone except employees and duly authorized agents of the Parties with a need to know such Proprietary Information and which employees and agents agree to be bound by the terms of this Section. Both Parties will use the same standard of care, which in no event shall be less than a reasonable standard of care, to protect Proprietary Information received as they would use to protect their own confidential and proprietary information.

- 11.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, both Parties agree that there will be no obligation to protect any portion of the Proprietary Information that is either: 1) made publicly available by the owner of the Proprietary Information or lawfully disclosed by a non-party to this Agreement; 2) lawfully obtained from any source other than the owner of the Proprietary Information; 3) publicly known through no wrongful act of the receiving Party; 4) previously known to the receiving Party without an obligation to keep it confidential; 5) required to be disclosed by any governmental authority or applicable law; or 6) approved for release by written authorization of the disclosing Party.
- 11.3 Upon termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall: (i) destroy all Proprietary Information of the other party that remains in its possession; and (ii) certify the completion of such activity in writing to the other Party, within thirty (30) calendar days.
- 11.4 Each Party's obligations under this section 12 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement for a period of five (5) years.

## 12. Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

#### 13. Default

- 13.1 If either Party (the "Defaulting Party") defaults in the payment of any undisputed amount due, or if either Party violates any other provision of this Agreement, and such default or violation shall continue for thirty (30) days after written notice (the "Default Notice") thereof, the other Party (the "Aggrieved Party") may terminate this Agreement and services hereunder pursuant to the Default Notice.
- 13.2 Such Default Notice shall be posted by overnight mail, return receipt requested. If the Defaulting Party cures the default or violation within the thirty (30) day period, the Aggrieved Party will not terminate either this Agreement or service under this Agreement but shall be entitled to recover all costs, if any, incurred by it in connection with the default or violation, including, without limitation, costs incurred to prepare for the termination of service. For purposes of this Section, the terms 'default,' 'violate,' and 'violation,' in all of their forms, shall mean 'materially default,' 'material default,' 'materially violate,' or 'material violation,' as appropriate.
- 13.3 If the Defaulting Party disputes that the Aggrieved Party's Default Notice is justified by relevant facts, then the Parties, by mutual agreement, may resolve the disagreement pursuant to the processes set forth in Section 15 ("Dispute Resolution"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Aggrieved Party retains the right to, without delay and without participating in the dispute resolution process pursuant to Section 15, immediately pursue any available legal or regulatory remedy to resolve any question about the alleged default or violation or the Aggrieved Party's announced termination of the Agreement.

#### 14. Discontinuance of Service

If a Party proposes to discontinue, or actually discontinues, its provision of service to Customers in the DUO service area, such Party shall provide notice of such discontinuance as required by Applicable Law.

## 15. Dispute Resolution

- 15.1 The Parties shall attempt to resolve any dispute between the Parties regarding the interpretation or enforcement of this Agreement or any of its terms by good faith negotiation between the Parties. To initiate such negotiation, a Party must provide to the other Party written notice of the dispute that includes both a detailed description of the dispute or alleged nonperformance and the name of an individual who has authority to resolve the dispute and will serve as the initiating Party's representative in the negotiation. Upon receipt, the other Party shall have ten (10) Business Days to respond in writing, designating its own such representative in the negotiation. The Parties' representatives shall attempt to reach a good faith resolution of the dispute within thirty (30) days after the date of the initiating Party's written notice of the dispute. Upon mutual agreement, the Parties' representatives may utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures, such as private mediation, to assist in the negotiations.
- 15.2 If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute within thirty (30) days of the date of the initiating Party's written notice, either Party may pursue any remedies available to it under this Agreement, at law, in equity, or otherwise, including, but not limited to, instituting an appropriate proceeding before the Commission, the FCC, or a court of competent jurisdiction. Except for FCC actions, all such proceedings shall be initiated within, and all Parties consent to personal jurisdiction and venue within, the state and/or federal courts of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- 15.3 The resolution of billing disputes shall be in accordance with the terms of this Section 15 and the credit and interest payment resolution set forth in Section 10. For any other disputes for which the resolution requires payment from one Party ("In-Favor Party") to the other Party, upon resolution of the dispute, the other Party will make immediate payment, within ten (10) days, to the In-Favor Party of any amounts including interest, where applicable.

#### 16. Force Majeure

16.1 Neither Party shall be responsible for any delay or failure in performance which results from causes beyond its reasonable control ("Force Majeure Events"), whether or not foreseeable by such Party. Such Force Majeure Events include, but are not limited to, adverse weather conditions, flood, fire, explosion, earthquake, volcanic action, power failure, embargo, boycott, war, revolution, terrorism, civil commotion, act of public enemies, labor unrest (including, but not limited to, strikes, work stoppages, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts), acts of God, or any other circumstances beyond the

reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of the Party affected.

- 16.2 If a Force Majeure Event occurs, the non-performing Party shall give prompt notification of its inability to perform to the other Party. During the period that the non-performing Party is unable to perform, the other Party shall also be excused from performance of its obligations to the extent such obligations are reciprocal to, or depend upon, the performance of the non-performing Party that has been prevented by the Force Majeure Event. The non-performing Party shall use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid or remove the cause(s) of its non-performance and both Parties shall proceed to perform once the cause(s) are removed or cease.
- 16.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 16.1 and 16.2, although a Force Majeure event could result in delay of a payment obligation, in no case shall a Force Majeure Event excuse either Party from an obligation to pay money as required by this Agreement.
- 16.4 Nothing in this Agreement shall require the non-performing Party to settle any labor dispute except as the non-performing Party, in its sole discretion, determines appropriate.

#### 17. Forecasts

In addition to any other forecasts required by this Agreement, upon request by the Providing Party, the Purchasing Party shall provide forecasts regarding the Services that it expects to purchase, including, but not limited to, forecasts regarding the types and volumes of Services that it expects to purchase and the locations where such Services will be purchased. Such forecasts shall be considered proprietary and confidential under the terms of this Agreement, and distribution of the forecasts or information based on such forecasts shall be treated as such, with access limited to those persons associated with the Providing Party who need to know such information in order to adequately provision the types and volumes of Services that the Purchasing Party expects to purchase at the locations where such Services will be purchased. The Providing Party shall exercise commercially reasonable best efforts to adequately provision the types and volumes of Services forecast by the Purchasing Party.

#### 18. Fraud

Neither party shall bear responsibility for, nor have any obligation to investigate or make adjustments to the other Party's account in cases of, fraud by the other Party's Customers or other third parties. Provided, however, that both Parties shall cooperate to discover and prevent fraud by each Party's Customers or other third parties.

#### 19. Good Faith Performance

The Parties shall act in good faith in their performance of this Agreement. Except

as otherwise expressly stated in this Agreement (including, but not limited to, where consent, approval, agreement or a similar action is stated to be within a Party's sole discretion), where consent, approval, mutual agreement or a similar action is required by any provision of this Agreement, such action shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed.

## 20. Headings

The headings used in the Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and are not intended to be a part of or to affect the meaning of the Agreement.

# 21. Indemnification

- 21.1 For the Services provided under this Agreement, each Party ("Indemnifying Party") shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the other Party, its Affiliates and successors and their respective directors, officers and employees ("Indemnified Party") from and against any and all claims that arise out of bodily injury to or death of any person; or damage to, or destruction or loss of, tangible real and/or personal property ("Claim"), to the extent such Claim were caused by the gross negligence or intentionally wrongful acts or omissions of the Indemnifying Party, it's Affiliates, or their respective directors, officers, employees, Agents or contractors (excluding the Indemnified Party).
- 21.2 An Indemnifying Party's obligations under this Section shall be conditioned upon the following:
- i. The Indemnified Party: (a) shall give the Indemnifying Party notice of the Claim promptly after becoming aware thereof (including a statement of facts known to the Indemnified Party related to the Claim and an estimate of the amount thereof); (b) prior to taking any material action with respect to the Claim, shall consult with the Indemnifying Party as to the procedure to be followed in defending, settling, or compromising the Claim; (c) shall not consent to any settlement or compromise of a Claim without the written consent of the Indemnifying Party; (d) shall permit the Indemnifying Party to assume the defense of the Claim with counsel reasonably acceptable to the Indemnified Party (including, except as provided below, the compromise or settlement thereof) at the Indemnifying Party's complete cost and expense.
- ii. If the Indemnified Party fails to comply with the requirements of this Section with respect to a Claim, to the extent such failure shall have a material adverse effect upon the Indemnifying Party, the Indemnifying Party shall be relieved of its obligation to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Indemnified Person with respect to such Claim under this Agreement.
- iii. The Indemnifying Party shall have the authority to defend and settle any Claim subject to the conditions set forth below.

- a. With respect to any Claim, the Indemnified Party shall be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in the defense of the Claim if the Claim requests equitable relief or other relief that could affect the rights of the Indemnified Party. In so participating, the Indemnified Party shall be entitled to employ separate counsel for such purposes at its own expense. The Indemnified Party shall also be entitled to participate, at its own expense, in the defense of any Claim, as to any portion of the Claim as to which it is not entitled to be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the Indemnifying Party.
- b. In no event shall the Indemnifying Party settle a Claim or consent to any judgment with regard to a Claim without the prior written consent of the Indemnified Party, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed. In the event the settlement or judgment requires a contribution from or affects the rights of an Indemnified Party, the Indemnified Party shall have the right to refuse such settlement or judgment with respect to itself and, at its own cost and expense, take over the defense against the Claim, provided that in such event the Indemnifying Party shall not be responsible for, nor shall it be obligated to indemnify, defend or hold harmless the Indemnified Party against the Claim for any amount in excess of such refused settlement or judgment.
- c. The Indemnifying Party shall, in all cases, assert any and all defenses, including, but not limited to, affirmative defenses, defenses set forth in applicable Tariffs and Customer contracts of the Indemnified Party, that limit liability to third persons as a bar to, or limitation on, any Claim or damages by a third-party.
- d. The Indemnifying Party and the Indemnified Party shall offer each other all reasonable cooperation and assistance in the defense of any Claim.
- 21.3 Except as otherwise provided above, each Party agrees that it will not implead or bring any action against the other Party, the other Party's Affiliates, or any of the directors, officers or employees of the other Party or the other Party's Affiliates, based on any claim by any person for personal injury or death that occurs in the course or scope of employment of such person by the other Party or the other Party's Affiliate and that arises out of performance of this Agreement, consistent with Applicable Law.
- 21.4 Each Party's obligations under this Section shall survive expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement.

## 22. Intellectual Property

- 22.1 Except as expressly stated in this Agreement, this Agreement shall not be construed as granting a license with respect to any patent, copyright, trade name, trademark, service mark, trade secret or any other intellectual property, now or hereafter owned, controlled or licensable by either Party.
- 22.2 Except as expressly stated in this Agreement, neither Party may use any patent, copyrightable materials, trademark, trade name, trade secret or other intellectual

property right, of the other Party except in accordance with the terms of a separate license agreement between the Parties granting such rights.

- 22.3 A Party providing a facility or Service ("Providing Party") shall use commercially reasonable best efforts to obtain all intellectual property rights as necessary for the other Party to use such facilities and Services as contemplated hereunder and at least in the same manner such facilities and Services are used by the Providing Party. The Providing Party shall notify the other Party immediately in the event that the Providing Party believes it has used its commercially reasonable best efforts to obtain such rights but has been unsuccessful in obtaining such rights. Nothing in this Section shall be construed in any way to condition, limit or alter a Party's indemnification obligations under this Agreement.
- 22.4 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES AGREE THAT NEITHER PARTY HAS MADE, AND THAT THERE DOES NOT EXIST, ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, THAT THE USE BY EACH PARTY OF THE OTHER'S SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT SHALL NOT GIVE RISE TO A CLAIM OF INFRINGEMENT, MISUSE, OR MISAPPROPRIATION OF ANY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT.

#### 23. Joint Work Product

The Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties, it represents the product of an arms-length negotiation of sophisticated businesspeople, and it shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms. In the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

### 24. Law Enforcement.

- 24.1 Each Party may cooperate with law enforcement authorities and national security authorities to the full extent required or permitted by Applicable Law in matters related to Services provided by it under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, the production of records, the establishment of new lines or the installation of new services on an existing line in order to support law enforcement and/or national security operations, and, the installation of wiretaps, trap-and-trace facilities and equipment, and dialed number recording facilities and equipment.
- 24.2 A Party shall not have the obligation to inform the other Party or the Customers of the other Party of actions taken in cooperating with law enforcement or national security authorities, except to the extent required by Applicable Law.
- 24.3 Where the request of a law enforcement authority or national security authority relates to the establishment of lines (including, but not limited to, lines established to support interception of communications on other lines), or the installation of other services, facilities or arrangements, a Party may act to prevent the other Party from obtaining access to such information concerning such lines, services, facilities and arrangements, through operations support system interfaces.

## 25. Liability

- 25.1 As used in this Section, "Service Failure" means a failure to comply with a direction to install, restore or terminate Services under this Agreement, a failure to provide Services under this Agreement, and failures, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors, defects or the like, occurring in the course of the provision of any Services under this Agreement.
- 25.2 Except as otherwise stated in this Section, the liability, if any, of a Party, a Party's Affiliates, and the directors, officers and employees of a Party and a Party's Affiliates, to the other Party, the other Party's Customers, and to any other person, for Claims arising out of a Service Failure shall not exceed an amount equal to the pro rata applicable monthly charge for the Services that are subject to the Service Failure for the period in which such Service Failure occurs.
- 25.3 For the Services provided under this Agreement, except as otherwise stated in this Section, a Party, a Party's Affiliates, and the directors, officers and employees of a Party and a Party's Affiliates, shall not be liable to the other Party, the other Party's Customers, or to any other person, in connection with this Agreement (including, but not limited to, in connection with a Service Failure or any breach, delay or failure in performance, of this Agreement) for special, indirect, incidental, consequential, reliance, exemplary, punitive, or like damages, including, but not limited to, damages for lost revenues, profits or savings, or other commercial or economic loss, even if the person whose liability is excluded by this Section has been advised of the possibility of such damages.
- 25.4 The limitations and exclusions of liability stated in this Section shall apply regardless of the form of a claim or action, whether statutory, in contract, warranty, strict liability, tort (including, but not limited to, negligence of a Party), or otherwise.
- 25.5 Nothing contained in this Section shall exclude or limit liability:
- 25.5.1 under Sections dealing with Indemnification, or, Taxes;
- 25.5.2 for any obligation to indemnify, defend and/or hold harmless that a Party may have under this Agreement;
- 25.5.3 for damages arising out of or resulting from bodily injury to or death of any person, or damage to, or destruction or loss of, tangible real and/or personal property of any person, or toxic or hazardous substances, to the extent such damages are otherwise recoverable under Applicable Law;
- 25.5.4 for a claim for infringement of any patent, copyright, trade name, trade mark, service mark, or other intellectual property interest;
- 25.5.5 under Section 258 of the Act or any order of the FCC or the Commission implementing Section 258;

- 25.5.6 under the financial incentive or remedy provisions of any service quality plan required by the FCC or the Commission; or,
- 25.5.7 for the gross negligence or intentionally wrongful acts or omissions of a Party.
- 25.6 In the event that the liability of a Party, a Party's Affiliate, or a director, officer or employee of a Party or a Party's Affiliate, is limited and/or excluded under both this Section and a provision of an applicable Tariff, the liability of the Party or other person shall be limited to the smaller of the amounts for which such Party or other person would be liable under this Section or the Tariff provision.
- 25.7 Each Party may, in its sole discretion, in its Tariffs and other contracts with its Customers, provide that in no case shall the other Party, the other Party's Affiliates, or the directors, officers or employees of the other Party or the other Party's Affiliates, be liable to such Customers or other third persons for any special, indirect, incidental, consequential, reliance, exemplary, punitive or other damages, arising out of a Service Failure. To the extent that a Party (First Party) elects not to place in its tariffs or contracts such limitations of liability, and the other Party (Second Party) incurs a loss as a result thereof, the First Party shall, except to the extent caused by the Second Party's gross negligence or willful misconduct, indemnify and reimburse the Second Party for that portion of the loss that would have been limited had the First Party included in its tariffs and contracts the limitations of liability that the Second Party included in its own tariffs at the time of such loss.

#### 26. Network Management

- 26.1 Cooperation. The Parties will work cooperatively in a commercially reasonable manner to install and maintain a reliable network. DUO and SPRINT will exchange appropriate information (e.g., network information, maintenance contact numbers, escalation procedures, and information required to comply with requirements of law enforcement and national security agencies) to achieve this desired reliability. In addition, the Parties will work cooperatively in a commercially reasonable manner to apply sound network management principles to alleviate and/or prevent traffic congestion.
- 26.2 Responsibility for Following Standards. Each Party recognizes a responsibility to follow the standards that may be agreed to between the Parties and to employ characteristics and methods of operation that will not interfere with or impair the service, network or facilities of the other Party or any third parties connected with or involved directly in the network or facilities of the other.
- 26.3 Interference or Impairment. If a Party ("Impaired Party") reasonably determines that the services, network, facilities, or methods of operation of the other Party ("Interfering Party") will or are likely to significantly degrade the Impaired Party's provision of services or the operation of the Impaired Party's network or facilities, the Impaired

Party may interrupt or suspend service provided to the Interfering Party to the extent necessary to prevent such interference or impairment, subject to the following:

- i. The Impaired Party must notify the Interfering Party and allow that Party a reasonable opportunity to correct the problem.
- ii. Where the Impaired Party does not know the precise cause of the interference or impairment, it must notify each Carrier that may have caused or contributed to the problem.
- iii. Except in emergency situations (e.g., situations involving a risk of bodily injury to persons or damage to tangible property, or an interruption in Customer service) or as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the Impaired Party shall provide the Interfering Party at least ten (10) days' prior written notice of the interference or impairment or potential interference or impairment and the need to correct the condition within said time period;
- iv. Where the interference or impairment asserted by the Impaired Party remains unresolved by the Interfering Party after ten (10) days, the Impaired Party must provide the Interfering Party with specific and verifiable information that a particular service, network, facility or method of operation of the Interfering Party is causing the significant degradation.
- v. Where the Impaired Party demonstrates that a particular service, network, facility or method of operation of the Interfering Party is significantly degrading the performance of the Impaired Party's provision of services, the Interfering Party shall discontinue deployment of that service and correct the interference or impairment or migrate its Customers to technologies that will not significantly degrade the performance of other such services. Upon correction of the interference or impairment, the Impaired Party will promptly restore the interrupted or suspended Service. The Impaired Party shall not be obligated to provide an out-of-service credit allowance or other compensation to the Interfering Party in connection with the suspended Service unless Service was improperly interrupted or suspended by the Impaired Party.
- 26.4 Outage Repair Standard. In the event of an outage or trouble in any Service being provided by a Party hereunder, the Providing Party will follow industry standard procedures for isolating and clearing the outage or trouble in a manner consistent with its obligations to act in a non-discriminatory manner.

### 27. Notice of Network Changes

If a Party makes a change in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of Services using that Party's facilities or network, or any other change in its facilities or network that will materially affect the interoperability of its facilities or network with the other Party's facilities or network, the Party making the change shall provide written notice to the other Party of the change at least ninety (90) days in advance of such change; provided, however, that if an earlier publication of notice of a change is

required by Applicable Law, notice shall be given at the time required by Applicable Law.

- 28. Notices
- 28.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement:
- 28.1.1 shall be in writing;
- 28.1.2 shall be delivered (a) personally, (b) by express delivery service with next Business Day delivery, or (c) by certified or registered U.S. mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid; and
- 28.1.3 shall be delivered to the following addresses of the Parties:

To:

SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.

Mailstop: KSOPHA0310

**ICA Solutions** 

6330 Sprint Parkway Overland Park, KS 66251

With a copy to:

Sprint
Attn: Legal/Telecom Management Privacy Group
6391 Sprint Parkway
KSOPHT0101-Z2060
Overland Park, KS 66251-2060

To DUO:

**Duo County Telephone Cooperative** 

Attn: Chief Exec. Officer

P.O. Box 80 2150 N. Main St.

Jamestown, KY 42629

With a copy to:

John E. Selent, Esq.

Dinsmore & Shohl LLP

1400 PNC Plaza

500 West Jefferson St. Louisville, Kentucky 40202

or to such other address(s) as either Party may designate from time to time by proper notice.

28.2 Notices will be deemed given as of the earlier of (a) where there is personal delivery of the notice, the date of actual receipt, (b) where the notice is sent via express delivery service for next Business Day delivery, the next Business Day after the notice is sent, and (c) where notice is sent via certified or registered U.S. mail, the date of receipt shown on the Postal Service receipt.

## 29. Performance Standards

- 29.1 DUO shall provide Services under this Agreement in accordance with the standards required by this Agreement, industry standards, and Applicable Law.
- 29.2 SPRINT shall provide Services under this Agreement in accordance with the standards required by this Agreement, industry standards, and Applicable Law.
- This Section 29.3 applies only to those interconnection arrangements, 29.3 Telecommunications Services, or other services, facilities or arrangements that one Party would not otherwise be required to provide to the other Party pursuant to Applicable Law. To the extent that one Party requests (the "Requesting Party") of the other Party (the "Responding Party") any interconnection arrangement, Telecommunications Service, or other service, facility or arrangement for the exchange of Telecommunications traffic or any other Services pursuant to this Agreement that is not required to be provided pursuant to Applicable Law and the fulfillment of that request would involve service or network arrangements beyond that which the Responding Party provides for its own services or beyond that which the Responding Party provides with any other carrier with which the Responding Party has an interconnection agreement, or would require the Responding Party to incur extraordinary costs and/or expenses beyond that which the Responding Party incurs for its own services or beyond that which the Responding Party incurs for service arrangements with any other carrier with which it has an interconnection agreement, the Responding Party may, at its sole judgment and discretion and after full and proper notice to the Requesting Party, provide such superior arrangements under the condition that the Requesting Party shall be responsible for any additional costs or expenses that may arise for the provisioning and operation of such superior arrangements.

#### 30. Point of Contact for Customers

- 30.1 Each Party shall establish telephone numbers and mailing addresses for purposes of communications with its respective Customers. Each Party shall advise its respective Customers of these telephone numbers and mailing addresses. Each Party shall advise the other Party of these telephone numbers and mailing addresses.
- 30.2 Neither Party shall have any obligation to accept a communication from the other Party's Customer, including, but not limited to, a request by the other Party's Customer for repair or maintenance. To the extent the correct provider can be determined, misdirected calls received by either Party will be referred to the proper Service provider.

- 31. Publicity and Use of Trademarks or Service Marks
- 31.1 A Party, its Affiliates, and their respective contractors and Agents, shall not use the other Party's trademarks, service marks, logos or other proprietary trade dress, in connection with the sale of products or services, or in any advertising, press releases, publicity matters or other promotional materials, or in any other manner whatsoever, without the other Party's prior, written consent for such specified use, which consent the other Party may grant or withhold in its sole judgment and discretion.
- 31.2 Neither Party may imply any direct or indirect affiliation with or sponsorship or endorsement of it or its services or products by the other Party.

#### 32. References

- 32.1 All references to Sections, Attachments, or Appendices shall be deemed to be references to Sections, Attachments, and Appendices of this Agreement unless the context shall otherwise require.
- 32.2 Unless the context shall otherwise require, any reference to a Tariff, agreement, technical or other document, or provision of Applicable Law, is to such Tariff, agreement, document, or provision of Applicable Law, as amended and supplemented from time to time (and, in the case of a Tariff or provision of Applicable Law, to any successor Tariff or provision of Applicable Law).

#### 33. Relationship of the Parties

- 33.1 The relationship of the Parties under this Agreement shall be that of independent contractors and nothing herein shall be construed as creating any other relationship between the Parties.
- 33.2 Nothing contained in this Agreement shall make either Party the employee of the other, create a partnership, joint venture, or other similar relationship between the Parties, or arant to either Party a franchise, distributorship or similar interest.
- 33.3 Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another Party, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a Party as a legal representative or Agent of the other Party, nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against, in the name or on behalf of the other Party unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party in writing, which permission may be granted or withheld by the other Party in its sole discretion.
- 33.4 Each Party shall have sole authority and responsibility to hire, fire, compensate, supervise, and otherwise control its employees, Agents and contractors. Each Party shall be solely responsible for payment of any Social Security or other taxes that it is required

by Applicable Law to pay in conjunction with its employees, Agents and contractors, and for withholding and remitting to the applicable taxing authorities any taxes that it is required by Applicable Law to collect from its employees.

- 33.5 Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no Party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.
- 33.6 The relationship of the Parties under this Agreement is a non-exclusive relationship.

## 34. Reservation of Rights

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, neither Party waives, and each Party hereby expressly reserves, its rights: (a) to appeal or otherwise seek the reversal of and changes in any arbitration decision associated with any matter, including matters related specifically to this Agreement or other types of arrangements prescribed in this Agreement; (b) to seek changes in this Agreement (including, but not limited to, changes in rates, charges and the Services that must be offered) through changes in Applicable Law; and (c) to challenge the lawfulness and propriety of, and to seek changes in, any Applicable Law, including, but not limited to any rule, regulation, order or decision of the Commission, the FCC, or a court of applicable jurisdiction including challenge of or changes to matters related specifically to this Agreement or other types of arrangements prescribed in this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to limit or prejudice any position a Party has taken or may take before the Commission, the FCC, any other state or federal regulatory or legislative bodies, courts of applicable jurisdiction, or industry for addressing any matters, including matters related specifically to this Agreement or other types of arrangements prescribed by this Agreement. The provisions of this Section shall survive the expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement.

#### 35. Subcontractors

A Party may use a contractor (including, but not limited to, an Affiliate of the Party) to perform the Party's obligations under this Agreement; provided, that a Party's use of a contractor shall not release the Party from any duty or liability to fulfill the Party's obligations under this Agreement.

# 36. Successors and Assigns

This Agreement shall be binding on and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective legal successors and permitted assigns.

#### 37. Survival

The rights, liabilities and obligations of a Party for acts or omissions occurring prior to the expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement, the rights, liabilities and obligations of a Party under any provision of this Agreement regarding confidential information, indemnification or defense, or limitation or exclusion of liability, and the rights, liabilities and obligations of a Party under any provision of this Agreement which by its terms or nature is intended to continue beyond or to be performed after the expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement, shall survive the expiration, cancellation or termination of this Agreement.

#### 38. Taxes

It is the mutual understanding of the Parties to this Agreement that there are no taxes specifically applicable to the subject matter of this Agreement or to either Party as a result of entering into this Agreement that would not otherwise be applicable to each respective Party. In the event that any government authority, however, determines to the contrary that a tax or taxes are applicable to the subject matter of this Agreement, then the following provisions will apply. In the event that any state or local excise, sales, or use taxes, if any (excluding any taxes levied on income), are applicable to the subject matter of this Agreement, then the Parties agree to negotiate mutually agreeable terms that will ensure that the tax obligation is met and that the taxes are properly collected by the Parties. To the extent that the Parties cannot agree on terms, then the Section 15 Dispute Resolution process shall apply.

## 39. Technology Upgrades

- 39.1 Each Party (the "Providing Party") shall provide, maintain, repair or replace its facilities and Services, including those facilities and Services used by the other Party pursuant to this Agreement, at a level of quality that is equal to that which the Providing Party provides to itself, its Affiliates, and any third parties in accordance with the requirements of the Act. At a minimum, the Providing Party shall provide, maintain, repair or replace its facilities and Services in accordance with the same technical criteria and service standards that are used within its own network on terms and conditions that are just, reasonable and nondiscriminatory in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement and Applicable Law.
- 39.2 Each Party shall have the right to deploy, upgrade, migrate and maintain its network to the extent permitted by Applicable Law. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit either Party's ability to modify its network through the incorporation of new equipment or software or otherwise.

### 40. Sale or Transfer of DUO Territory

- 40.1 This Agreement applies solely to the geographic territory in which DUO operates as an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- 40.2 DUO may terminate this Agreement as to a specific operating territory or portion thereof if DUO sells or otherwise transfers its operations in such territory or portion thereof. DUO shall provide SPRINT with at least ninety (90) calendar days prior written notice of such termination, which shall be effective upon the date specified in the notice. After such termination, DUO shall be obligated to provide Services under this Agreement only within the remaining territory.
- 40.3 Notwithstanding a termination notice provided pursuant to Section 40.2, this Agreement shall continue until the sale or transfer contemplated by the termination notice becomes effective, as approved by the Commission.

## 41. Third Party Beneficiaries

Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, this Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted successors and assigns, and nothing herein shall create or be construed to provide any third-parties with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, claim of action, or other right in excess of those existing by reference in this Agreement.

## 42. Filing of Agreement

The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement will be filed with the Commission.

#### 43. 252(i) Obligations

To the extent required by law, each Party shall comply with section 252(i) of the Act.

#### 44. Use of Service

Each Party shall exercise commercially reasonable efforts to ensure that its Customers comply with the provisions of this Agreement (including, but not limited to the provisions of applicable Tariffs) applicable to the use of Services purchased by it under this Agreement.

#### 45. No Waiver

Except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement, a failure or delay of either Party to enforce any of the provisions of this Agreement, or any right or remedy available under

this Agreement or at law or in equity, or to require performance of any of the provisions of this Agreement, or to exercise any option which is provided under this Agreement, shall in no way be construed to be a waiver of such provisions, rights, remedies or options. By entering into this Agreement, DUO does not waive any rights, including, but not limited to, the rights afforded a Rural Telephone Company under 47 USC Section 251(f).

## 46. Negotiated Compromise

This Agreement is the result of voluntary negotiations between Local Exchange Carriers and shall be construed as an Agreement reached through voluntary negotiation. This Agreement represents a compromise of each Party's positions based upon a combination of multiple interrelated issues of differing importance to each Party. The Parties negotiated the terms and conditions of this Agreement as a total arrangement, and it is intended to be taken as a whole. Accordingly, the rates, terms and conditions have been entered into as a single transaction consisting of the entire Agreement. No rate, term or condition contained in this Agreement may be construed or otherwise interpreted by anyone as a reflection of either Parties' legal opinion or position regarding either Parties' obligation or rights under Section 251 or 252 of the Act or other Applicable Law. Neither Party will assert in any regulatory, judicial or legislative proceeding that anything in this Agreement constitutes a precedent as to the subject matter addressed in this Agreement.

#### 47. Warranties

EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY STATED IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY MAKES OR RECEIVES ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE SERVICES PROVIDED, OR TO BE PROVIDED, UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND THE PARTIES DISCLAIM ANY OTHER WARRANTIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, WARRANTIES AGAINST INFRINGEMENT, AND WARRANTIES ARISING BY TRADE CUSTOM, TRADE USAGE, COURSE OF DEALING OR PERFORMANCE, OR OTHERWISE.

## 48. Entire Agreement

This Agreement and any Attachments, Appendices, or Tariffs which are incorporated herein by reference, sets forth the entire understanding and supersedes prior agreements between the Parties relating to the subject matter contained herein and merges all prior discussions between them, and neither Party shall be bound by any definition, condition, provision, representation, warranty, covenant or promise other than as expressly stated in this Agreement or as is contemporaneously or subsequently set forth in writing and executed by a duly authorized officer or representative of the Party to be bound thereby.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the Effective Date.

| DUO COUNTY Telephone Cooperative | Sprint Communications Company L.P |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| By: William W. Magruder          | By: And Gary Lindsey              |  |
| Type or Print Name               | Type or Print Name                |  |
| Chief Executive Officer          | Director, Access Solutions        |  |
| Title                            | Title                             |  |
| 5/31/06                          | 5/25/06                           |  |
| Date                             | Date                              |  |

# ATTACHMENT A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

#### 1. General Rule

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, when a term listed in this Glossary is used in this Agreement, the term shall have the meaning stated in this Glossary. A defined term intended to convey the meaning stated in this Glossary is capitalized when used. Other terms that are capitalized, and not defined in this Glossary or elsewhere in this Agreement, shall have the meaning stated in the Act. Additional definitions that are specific to the matters covered in a particular provision of this Agreement may appear in that provision. To the extent that there may be any conflict between a definition set forth in this Glossary and any definition in a specific provision, the definition set forth in the specific provision shall control with respect to that provision.

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, any term defined in this Glossary which is defined or used in the singular shall include the plural, and any term defined in this Glossary which is defined or used in the plural shall include the singular.

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1 "Access Services" refers to interstate and intrastate switched access and private line transport services.
- 2.2 "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. § 151 et seq.), as amended from time to time (including, but not limited to, the Telecommunications Act of 1996).
- 2.3 "Affiliate" shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.
- 2.4 "Agent" shall include an agent or servant.
- 2.5 "Agreement" means this Agreement, as defined in Section 1.1 of the General Terms and Conditions.
- 2.6 "Ancillary Traffic" means all traffic that is destined to provide Services ancillary to Telecommunications Services, or that may have special routing or billing requirements, including but not limited to the following: 911/E911, Operator Services, Directory Assistance, third party (except for that third party traffic that is specifically addressed in this Agreement), collect and calling card database query and Service, 800/888 database query and Service, CNAM, LIDB, and voice information Service.
- 2.7 "Applicable Law" means all effective laws, administrative rules and regulations, and any court orders, rulings and decisions from courts of competent jurisdiction, applicable to each Party's performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

- 2.8 "Business Day" means Monday through Friday, except for days U.S. mail is not delivered.
- 2.9 "Calendar Quarter" means January through March, April through June, July through September, or October through December
- 2.10 "Calendar Year" means January through December.
- 2.11 "Calling Party Number" or "CPN" means a CCS parameter that identifies the calling party's telephone number.
- 2.12 "Central Office" or "CO" refers to a local switching system for connecting lines to lines, lines to trunks, or trunks to trunks for the purpose of originating/terminating calls over the public switched telephone network. A single Central Office may handle several Central Office codes ("NXXs"). Sometimes this term is used to refer to a telephone company building in which switching systems and telephone equipment are installed.
- 2.13 "Central Office Switch" refers to a switch used to provide Telecommunications Services, including, but not limited to, End Office and Tandem Switches. A Central Office Switch may also be employed as a combination End Office/Tandem Office Switch.
- 2.14 "Commission" shall mean the Kentucky Public Service Commission.
- 2.15 "Common Channel Signaling" or "CCS" refers to a method of transmitting call set-up and network control data over a digital signaling network separate from the public switched telephone network facilities that carry the actual voice or data content of the call. The CCS currently used by the Parties is SS7.
- 2.16 "Common Language Location Identifier" or "CLLI Code" refers to a code developed by Telcordia Technologies as a method of identifying physical locations and equipment such as buildings, Central Offices, poles and antennas. There are three (3) basic formats for CLLI Codes: network entity, network support site, and customer site.
- 2.17 "Competitive Local Exchange Carrier" or "CLEC" refers to any Local Exchange Carrier providing Local Exchange Telecommunications Service in any area where it is not an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC"). SPRINT is a CLEC.
- 2.18 "Customer" means the residential or business subscriber or other ultimate end user of Telecommunications Services provided by either Party or, when SPRINT has a wholesale arrangement with a third party last mile provider for interconnection services, the ultimate end user of voice services provided by the last mile provider.
- 2.19 "Customer Proprietary Network Information" or "CPNI" is as defined in the Act.
- 2.20 "Day" means calendar day unless otherwise specified.

- 2.21 "End Office Switch" or "End Office" means a switching entity that is used to terminate Customer station Loops for the purpose of interconnection to each other and to trunks.
- 2.23 "FCC" shall mean the Federal Communications Commission.
- 2.24 "Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier" or "ILEC" shall have the meaning stated in the Act.
- 2.25 "Interexchange Carrier" or "IXC" means a Telecommunications Carrier that provides, directly or indirectly, InterLATA or IntraLATA telephone toll services.
- 2.26 "Internet" means the collective international network of interoperable public, private, managed and non-managed computer and Telecommunications facilities, including both hardware and software, which comprise the interconnected world-wide network of networks that employ the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP), or any predecessor or successor protocols to such protocol, to communicate information of all kinds by wireline or wireless connections.
- 2.27 "Internet Protocol" refers to a standard networking protocol that provides information transmission across interconnected networks and keeps track of Internet address for different nodes, routes outgoing information and recognizes incoming information.
- 2.28 "Internet Service Provider" or "ISP" is a vendor who provides access for customers (companies and private individuals) to the Internet and the World Wide Web for Telecommunication Services or other means, but does not include a common carrier to the extent that it provides common carrier services.
- 2.29 "Local Internet Traffic" or "ISP Bound Traffic" means any ISP traffic that is originated by a Customer of one Party, delivered to the other Party, and terminated by the other Party to an ISP within DUO's local serving area as defined by the effective local exchange tariff(s) of DUO, including mandatory local calling scope arrangements established and defined by the Commission ("Local Internet Traffic"). A mandatory local calling scope arrangement is an arrangement that provides Customers a local calling scope; i.e. Extended Area Service ("EAS"), beyond the Customer's basic exchange serving area. Therefore Local Internet Traffic, for purposes of this Agreement, includes both intra-exchange calls and EAS calls originated by a Customer of one Party, delivered to the other Party, and terminated by the other Party to an ISP.
- 2.30 "IntraLATA Traffic" means telecommunications traffic that originates and terminates within the same LATA.
- 2.31 "Interconnection Point" or "IP" means the location on the incumbent LEC network of DUO at which the connection is made by the Parties for the exchange of Local Traffic between the Parties.

- 2.32 "Local Access and Transport Area" or "LATA" shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.
- 2.33 "Local Exchange Carrier" or "LEC" shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.
- 2.34 "Local Exchange Routing Guide" or "LERG" shall mean a Telcordia Technologies reference containing NPA/NXX routing and homing information.
- 2.35 "Local Number Portability ("LNP")" means the ability of Customers of Telecommunications Services to retain, within the same geographic Rate Center area associated with the Customer's NPA-NXX code, existing telecommunications numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switching from one telecommunications carrier to another. The Parties recognize that some of the Traffic to be exchanged under this Agreement may be destined for telephone numbers that have been ported.
- 2.36 "Local Service Request" ("LSR") means an industry standard form or a mutually agreed upon change thereof, used by the Parties to add, establish, change or disconnect local services.
- 2.37 "Local Traffic" or "Subject Traffic" means traffic that is originated by a Customer of one Party on that Party's network and terminates to a Customer of the other Party on that other Party's network within DUO's local serving area as defined by the effective local exchange tariff(s) of DUO, including mandatory local calling scope arrangements established and defined by the Commission. A mandatory local calling scope arrangement is an arrangement that provides Customers a local calling scope; i.e. Extended Area Service ("EAS"), beyond the Customer's basic exchange serving area. Therefore Local Traffic, for purposes of this Agreement, includes both intra-exchange calls and non-optional EAS calls, and does not include any optional extended local scope service arrangement.
- 2.38 "North American Numbering Plan" ("NANP") means the plan for the allocation of unique 10-digit directory numbers consisting of a three-digit area code, a three-digit office code, and a four-digit line number. The plan also extends to format variations, prefixes, and special code applications.
- 2.39 "Numbering Plan Area ("NPA")" (sometimes referred to as an area code) is the three-digit indicator which is designated by the first three digits of each 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NPA contains 800 possible NXX Codes. There are two general categories of NPA, "Geographic NPAs" and "Non-Geographic NPAs." A "Geographic NPA" is associated with a defined geographic area, and all telephone numbers bearing such NPA are associated with services provided within that geographic area. A "Non-Geographic NPA," also known as a "Service Access Code (SAC Code)" is typically associated with a specialized telecommunications service which may be provided across multiple geographic NPA areas; 500, 800, 900, 700, and 888 are examples of Non-Geographic NPAs.

- 2.40 "NXX," "NXX Code," "NNX," "COC," "Central Office Code," or "CO Code" is the three-digit switch entity indicator which is defined by the fourth, fifth and sixth digits of a 10-digit telephone number within NANP.
- 2.41 "Proprietary Information" shall have the same meaning as Confidential Information.
- 2.42 "Providing Party" means a Party offering or providing a Service to the other Party under this Agreement.
- 2.43 "Purchasing Party" means a Party requesting or receiving a Service from the other Party under this Agreement.
- 2.44 "Rate Center Area" refers to the geographic area that has been identified as being associated with a particular NPA-NXX code assigned to the LEC for its provision of Telephone Exchange Services. The Rate Center Area is the exclusive geographic area that the LEC has identified as the area within which it will provide Telephone Exchange Services bearing the particular NPA-NXX designation associated with the specific Rate Center Area.
- 2.45 "Reciprocal Compensation" means the arrangement for recovering, in accordance with Section 251 (b) (5) of the Act, costs incurred for the transport and termination of Subject Traffic originating by the Customers of one Party on that Party's network and terminating to the Customers of the other Party on that other Party's network.
- 2.46 "Service" means any Interconnection arrangement, Telecommunications Service, or other service, facility or arrangement, offered by a Party under this Agreement.
- 2.47 "Signaling System 7" or "SS7" refers to the common channel out-of-band signaling protocol (CCS) developed by the Consultative Committee for International Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). CLEC and DUO currently utilize this out-of-band signaling protocol.
- 2.48 "Subsidiary" means a corporation or other person that is controlled by a Party.
- 2.49 "Switched Exchange Access Service" means the offering of transmission and switching services for the purpose of the origination or termination of Toll Traffic. Switched Exchange Access Services include but may not be limited to: Feature Group A, Feature Group B, Feature Group D, 700 access, 800 access, 888 access and 900 access.
- 2.50 "Tariff" means a filing made at the state or federal level for the provision of a telecommunications service by a telecommunications carrier that provides for the terms, conditions and pricing of that service. Such filing may be required or voluntary and may or may not be specifically approved by the Commission or FCC.
- 2.51 "Telcordia Technologies" refers to Telcordia Technologies, Inc., formerly known as Bell Communications Research, Inc. (Bellcore).

- 2.52 "Telecommunications" is as defined in the Act.
- 2.53 "Telecommunications Carrier" shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.
- 2.54 "Telecommunications Service" shall have the meaning set forth in the Act.
- 2.55 "Telephone Exchange Service" shall have the meaning set forth in the Act, and may also be interchangeably referred to herein as "Local Exchange Service".

#### ATTACHMENT B

#### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

1. Dialing Parity - Section 251(b)(3)

Each Party shall provide the other Party with nondiscriminatory access to such services and information as are necessary to allow the other Party to implement local dialing parity in accordance with the requirements of Section 251(b)(3) of the Act and Applicable Law.

2. Directory Publishing and Directory Distribution

This Directory Publishing and Directory Distribution section sets forth terms and conditions with respect to the inclusion of SPRINT's Customer listings in DUO's published directories.

# 2.1 Listing Information

- 2.1.1 As used herein, "Listing Information" means a SPRINT Customer's primary name, address (including city, state and zip code), telephone number(s), the delivery address and number of directories to be delivered, and, in the case of a business Customer, the primary business heading under which the business Customer desires to be placed, and any other information DUO deems necessary for the publication and delivery of directories.
- 2.1.2 In those Telephone Exchange Service areas where SPRINT and DUO both have Customers, and interconnection has been established for the exchange of traffic pursuant to the terms of this Agreement (defined as the "Listing Area"), DUO or its directory publishing contractor(s) will include White Pages and Yellow Pages listing information for SPRINT's Customers in the Listing Area in appropriate DUO directory(ies) provided that SPRINT provides Listing Information to DUO on a timely basis. DUO will include the White Pages and Yellow Pages listing information in DUO directories at no charge to SPRINT provided that SPRINT provides subscriber Listing Information at no charge to DUO.
- 2.1.3 Any references in this Section 2 to DUO procedures, practices, requirements, or words of similar meaning, shall also be construed to include those of DUO's contractors that publish directories on its behalf.
- 2.2 Listing Information Supply.
- 2.2.1 The Parties will cooperate in the development of a suitable timetable for the submission of Customer Listing Information for inclusion in the appropriate DUO directories. SPRINT will provide subscriber Listing Information to DUO (or its contract directory publisher) in such format as is consistent with a base listing format normally provided to publishers of directories. SPRINT will use commercially reasonable efforts to

provide the subscriber Listing Information in a format that will accommodate inclusion on a mechanized basis in the DUO directory publishing process.

- 2.2.2 DUO agrees to include one basic White Pages listing for each SPRINT Customer located within the geographic scope of DUO's White Page Directories within the Listing Area, and a courtesy Yellow Page listing for each SPRINT business Customer located within the geographical scope of DUO's Yellow Page directories. A basic White Page listing is defined as a Customer name, address, and assigned number. Basic White Pages listings of SPRINT Customers will be inter-filed with listings of DUO and the listings of other LECs. Directory listings will make no distinction between SPRINT and DUO Customers.
- 2.2.3 The foregoing notwithstanding, SPRINT reserves the right not to provide directory Listing Information to DUO for non-published telephone numbers. SPRINT understands that DUO will have no ability to provide such unlisted directory Listing Information to any third parties and DUO cannot guarantee that SPRINT's Customers whose listings are withheld will receive distributed directories.

### 2.3 DUO Information.

Upon request by SPRINT, DUO shall make available to SPRINT the following information to the extent that DUO provides such information to its own business offices: a directory list of relevant NXX codes, directory close dates, publishing data, and Yellow Pages headings. DUO also will make available to SPRINT, upon written request, a copy of DUO's alphabetical listings standards and specifications manual.

## 2.4 Confidentiality of Listing Information.

DUO shall accord SPRINT Listing Information the same level of confidentiality that DUO accords its own Listing information, and shall use such Listing Information solely for the purpose of providing directory-related services; provided, however, that should DUO elect to do so, it may use or license SPRINT Listing Information for directory publishing by third parties, so long as SPRINT's Customers are not separately identified as such. DUO shall not be obligated to compensate SPRINT for DUO's use or licensing of SPRINT Listing Information.

## 2.5 Accuracy.

Both Parties shall use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure the accurate publication of SPRINT Customer listings.

## 2.6 Indemnification.

SPRINT shall adhere to all practices, standards, and ethical requirements established by DUO with regard to listings. By providing DUO with Listing Information, SPRINT represents to DUO that SPRINT has the right to provide such Listing Information to DUO on behalf of its Customers for publishing in DUO's directories provided to the public. SPRINT agrees to release, defend, hold harmless and indemnify DUO from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, suits, or other actions, or any liability whatsoever,

suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by any person arising out of DUO's publication or dissemination of the Listing Information as provided by SPRINT hereunder.

## 2.7 Liability.

DUO's liability to SPRINT in the event of a DUO error in or omission of a listing shall not exceed the lesser of the amount of charges actually paid by SPRINT for such listing or the amount by which DUO would be liable to its own Customer.

## 2.8 Directory Publication.

Nothing in this Agreement shall require DUO to publish a directory where it would not otherwise do so.

- 3. Intercept and Referral Announcements
- 3.1 When a Customer changes its service provider from DUO to SPRINT, or from SPRINT to DUO, and does not retain its original telephone number, the Party formerly providing service to such Customer shall, subject to Section 3.2 below, provide a referral announcement ("Referral Announcement") on the abandoned telephone number which provides the Customer's new number or other appropriate information, to the extent known to the Party formerly providing service. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Party shall not be obligated under this Section to provide a Referral Announcement if the Customer owes the Party unpaid overdue amounts or the Customer requests that no Referral Announcement be provided.
- 3.2 Referral Announcements shall be provided as required by Applicable Law and consistent with each Party's respective business practices.

### ATTACHMENT C

### INTERCONNECTION AND NUMBER PORTABILITY

This Attachment describes the arrangements between the Parties for interconnection and the transmission and routing of telecommunications traffic as set forth below.

- 1. Scope of Traffic
- 1.1 The Parties agree that they will deliver to each other over the interconnection facilities the following traffic: (1) Local Traffic and (2) Local Internet Traffic.
- 1.2 Each Party agrees that it will not provision any of its services in a manner that will result in, or permits, the circumvention of the application of intrastate or interstate access charges by the other Party including, but not limited to, the resale to third parties of, or the assignment of, NPA-NXX numbers associated with one Rate Center for Customers that obtain Local Exchange Service in a different geographical Rate Center. Each Party agrees that it will not provision any of its services in a manner that will result in, or permits, the arbitrage and/or circumvention of the application of intrastate or interstate access charges by the other Party. Traffic to or from Customers that originates or terminates in areas other than those included in the calling scope of Local Traffic is beyond the scope of the agreement. All traffic that does not originate and terminate to Customers within the same local calling area of DUO is subject to intrastate or interstate Switched Exchange Access Service Tariffs regardless of the transmission protocol used for any portion of the call.
- 1.3 Both Parties warrant that they will: (a) assign telephone numbers in a manner consistent with this Agreement to Customers that obtain Local Exchange Service in the Rate Center Areas associated with the telephone number; (b) provision their local exchange carrier services in a manner that the resulting traffic exchanged between the Parties pursuant to this Agreement will be confined to the scope of the traffic as set forth in this Section; (c) adopt the Rate Center areas for the assignment of telephone numbers that are identical to those used by the incumbent local exchange carriers that serve the Local Service Exchange areas related to the Local Traffic exchanged pursuant to this Agreement; (d) assign whole NXX Codes to each Rate Center, or where, applicable, thousand number blocks within a NXX Code assigned to that Rate Center; and (e) subject to section 4.2 below, provide Calling Party Number on Customer originated traffic delivered to the other Party. Both Parties agree that they will engineer their respective networks and design their respective systems to deliver traffic in compliance with this Agreement.
- 1.4 If either Party violates Section 1.2 or 1.3 above, the other Party shall be entitled to charge originating and terminating access charges, as appropriate, for traffic associated with such violations.
- 1.5 Both Parties agree only to deliver traffic to the other Party pursuant to and consistent with the terms of this Agreement. It shall be a default of this Agreement for a

Party to deliver, over the connecting facilities, any traffic other than the traffic that is within the scope and consistent with the terms of this Agreement.

- 1.6 Each Party is solely responsible for the receipt and transmission of 911/E911 traffic originated by its Customers of its Telephone Exchange Services. The Parties acknowledge and affirm that calls to 911/E911 services shall NOT be routed over the trunk groups established between the Parties pursuant to this Agreement. To the extent that a Party incorrectly routes such traffic over such arrangements, that Party shall fully indemnify and hold harmless the other Party for any claims, including claims of third parties, related to such calls.
- 2. Methods for Interconnection and Trunk Types
- 2.1 Methods for Interconnection.
- 2.1.1 Interconnection
- 2.1.1.1. The Parties shall utilize the Interconnection Point(s) ("IP(s)") designated as the points from which the Parties will provide transport and termination of traffic that is within the scope of the Agreement. Each Party will be responsible operationally and financially for bringing their facilities to the IP and for the delivery to the IP of any traffic that they send to the other Party under the terms of this Agreement. Where mutually beneficial to the Parties, they may agree to provision voluntary arrangements not otherwise required under Applicable Law.
- 2.1.1.2. The Parties agree to interconnect at one or more IPs as set forth in Appendix A in accordance with the following options:
  - (a) an IP at a mid-span meet point established between the Parties at a point on the incumbent network of DUO;
  - (b) any other mutually-agreed to arrangement, as negotiated by the Parties.
- 2.1.1.3. Each Party shall be responsible for provisioning facilities to the agreed-to IP(s).
- 2.1.1.4 SPRINT may use a third party carrier's facilities for purposes of establishing interconnection with DUO at the IP(s). In such case, on behalf of SPRINT, the third party carrier will connect dedicated facilities with DUO at the IP(s). SPRINT shall be responsible for the payment to any third party carrier for any charges associated with the facilities on the SPRINT side of the IP. Where facilities are meet point facilities jointly provided by the third-party and DUO, any portion of the facilities provided by DUOSPRINT will be provided at no charge to SPRINT.
- 2.1.2 The Parties shall utilize the common channel out-of-band signaling (CCS) protocol developed by the Consultative Committee for International Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in accordance with accepted industry practice and standard technical specifications. The Parties currently utilize SS7 out-of-band signaling protocol and agree to continue to exchange traffic

using SS7 signaling parameters including, but not limited to ISDN User Part ("ISUP"), Signaling Points including STPs, SSPs, and SCPs, and any other SS7 parameters necessary for the exchange of traffic.

- 2.1.2.1 The Parties agree to cooperate on the exchange of all appropriate SS7 messages for call set-up, including Integrated Services Digital Network User Part ("ISUP") and Transaction Capability User Part ("TCAP") messages, to facilitate full interoperability of all CLASS features and functions between their respective networks. The parties shall include the Jurisdiction Information Parameter ("JIP") in the Initial Address Message ("IAM"), containing a Local Exchange Routing Guide-assigned NPA-NXX (6 digits) identifying the originating switch on calls that they originate. The Parties understand that JIP may be used to identify the carrier of traffic, but does not in and of itself establish the jurisdiction of such traffic for billing purposes.
- 2.1.2.2 Neither Party shall intentionally substitute or generate incorrect ANI, CPN or SS7 parameters on traffic exchanged pursuant to this Agreement. Upon determination that a Party has intentionally substituted or generated such incorrect parameters on traffic exchanged pursuant to this Agreement, the offending Party shall pay the other Party the difference between compensation paid (if any) and applicable access charges, plus interest due under the terms of the applicable access tariff from the date the traffic would have been billed if such parameters had been passed unaltered. It shall be a default of this Agreement for a Party to substitute or generate incorrect ANI, CPN or SS7 paramaters on traffic exchanged pursuant to this Agreement.

# 2.2 Trunking Arrangements

- 2.2.1 The Parties will interconnect one or more trunk groups for the transmission and routing of Local Traffic and Local Internet Traffic as set forth in Appendix A. Each Party shall make available to the other Party trunks over which one Party can deliver and receive its Customers' traffic to and from the other Party's Customers, provided, however, that each Party retains the right to modify the trunk facilities it provides to its side of the IP.
- 2.2.2 All trunks shall utilize SS7 Common Channel Signaling. The Parties agree to utilize B8ZS and Extended Super Frame (ESF) DS1 facilities, where available.
- 2.2.3 The Parties shall meet (telephonically or in person) from time to time, as needed, to review data on two-way trunks to determine the need for new trunk groups and to plan any necessary changes in the number of trunks.
- 2.2.4 The trunk group(s) established between the Parties pursuant to the terms of this Agreement for the exchange of Local Traffic and Local Internet Traffic shall be engineered to a P.01 Grade of Service. The performance standard for two-way trunk groups shall be that no such trunk group will exceed its design blocking objective for three (3) consecutive calendar traffic study months.
- 2.2.5 The Parties shall collaboratively determine the number of two-way trunks that are required to meet the applicable design-blocking objective for all traffic carried on each

two-way trunk group. SPRINT shall order two-way trunks by submitting ASRs to DUO and any applicable third party, setting forth the number of two-way trunks to be installed and the requested installation dates within DUO's effective standard intervals or negotiated intervals, as appropriate. SPRINT shall populate all applicable fields in ASRs in accordance with OBF Guidelines as in effect from time to time.

- 2.2.6 Both Parties shall monitor two-way trunk groups using service results for the applicable design blocking objective. If a Party observes blocking in excess of the applicable design objective on any two-way trunk group, SPRINT may submit an ASR to DUO or DUO may submit to SPRINT a Trunk Group Service Request ("TGSR") requesting that the trunk group be augmented to remedy the blocking.
- 2.2.7 The Parties will review all two-way trunk groups that reach a utilization level of seventy percent (70%), or greater, to mutually determine whether those groups should be augmented. For each trunk group with a utilization level of less than sixty percent (60%) for three consecutive months, a Party may, following consultation with the other Party, disconnect a sufficient number of the available trunks to attain a utilization level of at least sixty percent (60%), however, the trunks will be grouped in minimum multiples of 24 trunks for the purpose of determining utilization levels. The minimum utilization level of sixty percent (60%) is not required until trunk groups have been in service for at least six (6) months.
- 3. Trunk Group Provisioning
- 3.1 Both Parties shall use either a DS-1 or DS-3 facilities interface at the IP, as appropriate. When and where an STS-1 interface is available, the Parties may agree to use such an interface. Upon mutual agreement, the Parties may agree to use an optical interface (such as OC-n).
- 3.2 Unless mutually agreed to by both Parties, each Party will outpulse ten (10) digits to the other Party.
- 3.3 Each Party will use commercially reasonable efforts to monitor the traffic exchanged by the Parties over the interconnection trunk groups and to augment those groups using generally accepted trunk engineering standards so as not to exceed blocking objectives.
- 4. Traffic Measurement and Billing over Interconnection Trunks
- 4.1 Each Party, at its own expense, reserves the right to audit all traffic and any associated billing as specified in this Section of the Agreement, up to a maximum of two audits per calendar year to ensure that only Local Traffic and Local Internet Traffic are being routed on the Interconnection Trunks and that rates are being applied appropriately. Each Party agrees to provide the necessary Traffic data in conjunction with any such audit in a timely manner.
- 4.2 To the extent technically feasible, each Party shall pass Calling Party Number (CPN) information on each call. For those Customer's whose premise equipment is

unable to populate the CPN in the call detail record, each party shall populate the CPN field with the Customer's billing number. The Parties agree that, to the extent a wholesale Customer billing or local routing number exists and is different from the Customer's end user's CPN or billing number, they will not populate the CPN field in the call detail record with a wholesale Customer's billing or local routing number but will utilize the Customer's end-user's CPN or billing number.

- 4.2.1 Where possible, actual call detail records including the CPN, will be used by the terminating Party for purposes of auditing the scope of Traffic. Where a terminating Party has the capability, it will use the actual call detail records including the CPN information associated with each specific call to identify Traffic delivered by the other Party as either Telecommunications Traffic, or Access Traffic.
- 4.2.2 When a terminating Party receives insufficient call detail or the CPN is missing or masked, and therefore cannot determine whether the call is or is not within the scope of this Agreement, and if the percentage of traffic delivered with CPN of sufficient detail is greater than ninety-five percent (95%) the total calls delivered, the calls without sufficient detail or CPN will be presumed to be in the same proportion as the calls within the more than ninety-five percent (95%) that can be identified. If traffic delivered by one Party to the other Party has CPN on fewer than ninety-five percent (95%) of the calls, the terminating Party may provide written notice of a billing dispute to the other Party delivering such calls below the ninety-five percent (95%) threshold. Upon such notice, the Party delivering the traffic to the other Party (the "Delivering Party) shall have thirty (30) days to investigate and correct the lack of CPN and report the date the problem was corrected to the other Party (the "Terminating Party"). If the problem cannot be repaired within thirty (30) days of the written notice to bring the delivered traffic without CPN to fewer than five percent (5%) of total calls, the Terminating Party will bill all traffic without CPN as intrastate Access traffic until such time as the traffic without CPN is fewer than five percent (5%) of total traffic.

### 5. Local Traffic

- 5.1 The specific compensation terms and conditions set forth in this Section of this Attachment for Local Traffic are related to, specifically dependent on, and limited to the provision of Local Exchange Service to Customers for the exchange of Local Traffic as defined in Attachment A ("Glossary") and on the application of all other terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. The specific compensation terms and conditions set forth in this Section are not applicable to any other kind of traffic or for traffic that originates or terminates in areas outside the scope of Local Traffic as defined in this Agreement.
- 5.2 The Parties agree that the nature of the Local Traffic to be exchanged between the Parties and all other mutual provisions and relative obligations of the Parties pursuant to this Agreement represent good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which between the Parties is acknowledged, and that the relative obligations and consideration are sufficiently in balance between the Parties such that neither Party has any obligation to provide any monetary compensation to the other Party for the other Party's origination or termination of Local Traffic within the scope of this Agreement.

However, to the extent that Local Traffic exchanged between the Parties becomes out of balance by more than 55% in one direction and less than 45% in the other direction, the Parties will negotiate in good faith the application of appropriate compensation terms for the termination of Local Traffic. Negotiations shall be conducted pursuant to the Dispute Resolution provisions contained in the General Terms and Conditions portion of this Agreement. The compensation terms and conditions set forth in this section are specifically related to and dependent on all of the provisions of Section 5.1 and all other terms and conditions of this Agreement.

- 5.3 Traffic Not Subject to Terms and Conditions for Local Traffic
- 5.3.1 The terms and conditions set forth in this Section 5 of this Agreement for Local Traffic do not apply to the following: (1) any Internet Traffic; (2) interstate or intrastate Exchange Access or exchange services for Exchange Access; (3) intraLATA Toll Traffic or interLATA Toll Traffic, including, but not limited to, calls originated on a 1+ presubscription basis, or on a casual dialed (10XXX/101XXXX) basis; (4) Switched Exchange Access Service traffic; or (5) Optional Extended Local Calling Area Traffic. The terms and conditions set forth in this Section 5 of this Agreement for Local Traffic do not apply to traffic either originated from or terminated to a Party's Customer where the Customer location is physically located outside of the geographic area that has been identified as the Rate Center Area associated with a particular NPA-NXX.
- 6. Treatment of Local Internet Traffic.
- 6.1 The Parties agree to transport and switch Local Internet Traffic in the manner described below in this section subject to amendment upon written agreement of the Parties.
- 6.2 The Parties acknowledge that under current network and service arrangements, some Internet Traffic may be switched and transported as though Local Internet Traffic were the same as Local Traffic (even though it is not). Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Parties will treat Local Internet Traffic under the following conditions until such time as a regulatory authority, court, or legislative body addresses the proper treatment of this Local Internet Traffic. The switching and transport of Local Internet Traffic over the Interconnection Trunk facilities by either Party, however, will not be deemed or construed by either Party as either agreement or acknowledgment by the Parties that this arrangement is proper or required. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Parties agree that the mutual provisions and relative obligations of the Parties, including but not limited to, the mutual exchange of Local Internet Traffic, pursuant to this Agreement are balanced and represent good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which between the Parties is acknowledged and as a result of the Agreement set forth above, neither Party will owe a net due amount to the other Party for terminating Local Internet Traffic including, but not limited to, compensation for switching, transport or termination of Local Internet Traffic.
- 6.3 A call placed on a non-local basis (e.g., a toll call or 8yy call) to an ISP shall not be treated as Local Internet Traffic for compensation purposes. The Parties agree that,

to the extent such "non-Local" ISP calls are placed, that the rates, terms and conditions for IntraLATA and/or InterLATA calling shall apply, including but not limited to rating and routing according to the Party's applicable tariffs and the application of intrastate and/or interstate Switched Exchange Access Service tariffs.

6.4 Where the public switched network, local exchange facilities and/or services of either Party are used for the origination or termination of a voice call, regardless of the protocol that may be used to transport such voice call, the Parties agree to apply the following terms and conditions: voice calls, regardless of transport protocol, will be treated in the same manner as each Party treats a voice call originated and terminated on a circuit-switched basis. Thus, all voice calls shall be subject to the same compensation terms and conditions as applies for circuit switched calls. Consequently, all voice calls that both originate and terminate within a local calling area as defined for Local Traffic pursuant to this Agreement will also be treated as Local Traffic pursuant to this Agreement. All other voice calls will be treated as either intrastate or interstate interexchange traffic subject to the same terms and conditions as any other circuit-switched interexchange traffic, including the application of originating and terminating Switched Exchange Access Service charges.

## 7. Intermediary Services

Neither Party shall provide an intermediary or transit traffic function for the other Party's connection of its Customers to the Customers of a third party telecommunications carrier without the consent and agreement of the Parties and any third party telecommunications carrier that may be involved. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to utilize any intermediary or transit traffic function of the other Party or of any other third party. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to provide an intermediary or transit traffic service.

## 8. Number Resources and Rate Center Areas

- 8.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or otherwise adversely affect in any manner either Party's right to employ or to request and be assigned any Central Office Codes ("NXX") pursuant to the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines and any relevant FCC or Commission orders, as may be amended from time to time, or to establish, by Tariff or otherwise, Rate Center Areas corresponding to such NXX codes.
- 8.2 During the term of this Agreement, SPRINT shall adopt the Rate Center Area and Rate Center Points that the Commission has approved for DUO and any other incumbent Local Exchange Carriers within the serving area. SPRINT shall assign whole NPA-NXX codes, or one-thousand blocks where applicable, to each Rate Center Area consistent with Applicable Law.
- 8.3 It shall be the responsibility of each Party to program and update its own switches and network systems. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, neither Party shall impose any fees or charges whatsoever on the other Party for such activities.

- 9. Installation, Maintenance, Testing and Repair.
- 9.1 Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties, to the extent required by Applicable Law, Interconnection provided by a Party shall be equal in quality to that provided by such Party to itself, any subsidiary, affiliates or third party. If either Party is unable to fulfill its obligations under this Section, it shall notify the other Party of its inability to do so and will negotiate alternative intervals in good faith. The Parties agree that to the extent required by Applicable Law, the standards to be used by a Party for isolating and clearing any disconnections and/or other outages or troubles shall be at parity with standards used by such Party with respect to itself, any subsidiary, affiliate or third party.
- 9.2 A maintenance service charge applies whenever either Party requests the dispatch of the other Party's personnel for the purpose of performing maintenance activity on the interconnection trunks, and any of the following conditions exist: (a) No trouble is found in the interconnection trunks; (b) The trouble condition results from equipment, facilities or systems not provided by the Party whose personnel were dispatched; or (c) Trouble clearance did not otherwise require a dispatch, and upon dispatch requested for repair verification, the interconnection trunk does not exceed maintenance limits.
- 9.2.1 If a maintenance service charge has been applied and trouble is subsequently found in the facilities of the Party whose personnel were dispatched, the charge will be canceled.
- 9.2.2 Billing for maintenance service by either Party is based on each half-hour or fraction thereof expended to perform the work requested. The time worked is categorized and billed at one of the following three rates: (1) basic time; (2) overtime; or (3) premium time as defined in DUO's intrastate access tariff.
- 10. Number Portability Section 251 (b) (2)
- 10.1 The Parties shall provide Local Number Portability (LNP) in accordance with rules and regulations as prescribed from time to time by the FCC and the Commission. LNP applies when one Party (the "Receiving Party") has received a request from a Customer end user with an active account with the other Party and the required authorization has been obtained from that Customer indicating that Customer's desire to change local carriers while retaining the same telephone number or numbers associated with his/her account ("Authorization").
- 10.2 Service provider number portability ("SPNP") is the arrangement under which the Parties will provide LNP. SPNP is a service arrangement between local exchange carriers which allows an existing Customer to obtain local exchange service from a different local exchange service provider and retain its then existing telephone number at a location within the same Rate Center Area. The Parties agree that they will only send a request to the other Party, requesting to port a number, under the following conditions: (a) the requesting Party will be providing Telephone Exchange Service to that Customer in the same rate center area in which the Customer currently obtains Telephone Exchange service; and (b) the Requesting Party will be providing Telephone Exchange

Service to that Customer pursuant to the terms of this Interconnection Agreement. The Parties agree that they will not seek to port numbers from the other Party on behalf of any other service provider. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is understood that the Party's will be porting numbers associated with SPRINT Customers that are end users of a third-party last mile provider that has a wholesale arrangement with SPRINT for interconnection services, and such interconnection services are subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

10.3 Each Party is responsible for obtaining Authorization from each Customer initiating LNP from one Party to the other Party. The Party obtaining the Authorization also shall solely be responsible for all requirements associated with obtaining and verifying the Authorization and all consequences arising from such actions.

10.4. The Requesting Party will submit a Local Service Request ("LSR") to the other Party to commence the process to effect an LNP related service change. The Party to whom an LSR is submitted will bill, and the Requesting Party will pay, LSR charges as provided in APPENDIX A.

10.5 The Parties agree to coordinate the timing for disconnection from one Party and connection with the other Party when a Customer ports his or her telephone number.

10.6 There will be no premium charges between the Parties or compensation provided by one Party to the other Party for the coordinated routine LNP activities between the normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. If an "LNP Date Modifications/ Customer Not Ready" request is made outside normal business hours (if available) or is made within normal business hours and requires additional internal or outside work force, the Requesting Party will be assessed an Expedited Order Charge to be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

10.7 Both Parties will perform testing as specified in industry guidelines and cooperate in conducting any additional testing to ensure interoperability between networks and systems. Each Party shall inform the other Party of any system updates that may affect the other Party's network and each Party shall, at the other Party's reasonable request, perform tests to validate the operation of the network.

10.8 Each Party will accept LNP requests from the other Party for one Customer that includes multiple requests for LNP only where the Customer will retain each of the telephone numbers identified in the LNP request.

## ATTACHMENT D

### **PRICING**

### 1. General

- 1.1 As used in this Attachment, the term "Charges" means the rates, fees, charges and prices for a Service.
- 1.2 The Charges for a Service shall be the charges for Services as detailed in Appendix A.
- 1.3 In the absence of Charges for a Service established pursuant to Section 1.2, if Charges for a Service are otherwise expressly provided for or referenced in this Agreement, such Charges shall apply.
- 1.4 In the absence of Charges for a Service established pursuant to Sections 1.2 and 1.3, the Charges for the Service shall be mutually agreed to by the Parties in writing.

# 2. Regulatory Review of Prices

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, each Party reserves its respective rights to institute an appropriate proceeding with the FCC, the Commission or other governmental body of appropriate jurisdiction: (a) with regard to the Charges for its Services (including, but not limited to, a proceeding to change the Charges for its services); and (b) with regard to the Charges of the other Party (including, but not limited to, a proceeding in which the FCC, the Commission or other governmental body with appropriate jurisdiction is asked to reduce such Charges and to order a refund of any amounts paid in excess of any Charges that are reduced).

# APPENDIX A DUO TELEPHONE COMPANY and SPRINT

# A. Designation of the IP(s):

The Parties will establish the IP (with respect to connection to DUO's Russell Springs tandem office) at the meet point between the Russell Springs exchange area of DUO and the Columbia exchange area of Alltel to be located at V=6707 and H=2583 which is the same provisioning point that DUO has established as a meet point with interexchange carriers. Traffic exchanged between the Parties under this Agreement via the mid-span meet point is limited to Local Traffic between the Parties' respective valid NPA-NXX codes associated with the following Local Exchange Service areas:

DUO Exchange NXX SPRINT NXX

Russell Springs or Jamestown Russell Springs or Jamestown Exchange

Exchange

Burkesville Rural Exchange Burkesville Rural Exchange or Burkesville

City Exchange

Fairplay Fairplay or Columbia Exchange

B. Local Traffic Transport and Termination Compensation

To be added pursuant to the terms of Section 5.2 of Attachment C to this Agreement.

## C. LSR Order Charges

When a Party (the "Requesting Party") receives a Customer request to change service from the other Party but retain the Customer's same telephone number(s), the Requesting Party will submit a Local Service Request ("LSR") to the other Party to commence the process to effect the service change. Charges associated with an LSR Order are:

- Basic Initial LSR Order Charge = \$25.00 per each initial request by the Requesting Party to the other Party per Customer -- To be billed to and paid by the Requesting Party.
- Basic Subsequent LSR Service Order Charge = \$12.50 per each time the Requesting Party submits a revised LSR per Customer -- To be billed to and paid by the Requesting Party.

## D. Directory Listings & Books

DUO will charge, and Sprint will pay the following price for DUO to cause the delivery of DUO telephone books to each Sprint Customer in the same manner that DUO telephone books are delivered to DUO's Customers:

- Charge Per Book Delivery: \$2.10