

CenturyTel of Ohio, Inc.
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June 22, 2000

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

JUN 29 2000

Ms. Dorothy Wideman
Executive Secretary
Michigan Public Service Commission
6545 Mercantile Way
P. O. Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909-7721

FILED

U-12507

Dear Ms. Wideman:

Enclosed for filing is the original and 17 copies of a Joint Application for approval of an interconnection and reciprocal compensation agreement between CenturyTel and Nextel West Corp. Please date stamp the two extra copies and return one each in the self-addressed, posted envelopes. Also enclosed is a diskette containing this filing in an electronic format.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vickie Norris".

Vickie M. Norris
Director
Government Relations

CC: Bob Edgerly, Nextel

JUN 29 2000

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILED

In Re: The Request For Commission Approval)
Of an Interconnection And Reciprocal)
Compensation Agreement Arrived At Through)
Voluntary Negotiations Between CenturyTel and)
Nextel West Corp.)

U-12507
Case No. U-_____

JOINT APPLICATION

CenturyTel, on behalf of its Michigan companies, and Nextel West Corp.

("Nextel") hereby jointly apply to the Michigan Public Service Commission

("Commission") for approval within ninety (90) days, pursuant to and in accordance with Section 252(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act"), Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) [codified at 47 U.S.C. §252(e)] and pursuant to Section 203(1) of the Michigan Telecommunications Act ("MTA"), as amended, MCL 484.2203(1) an Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement dated June 16, 2000, arrived at through voluntary negotiations between CenturyTel and Nextel. A copy of this Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference. This submission is made pursuant to the Act. Applicants respectfully request Commission action on this submission in accordance with the Act. In support thereof, CenturyTel submits the following information:

1. CenturyTel is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Louisiana with principal offices located at 100 Century Park Drive, P. O. Box 4065, Monroe, LA 71211 and it is the parent corporation of CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc., CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc., CenturyTel

Midwest – Michigan, Inc., and CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc., all identified in Attachment II of the Agreement. CenturyTel's Michigan companies are engaged in the provision of varied telecommunications services to its customers and the general public within its certificated territory in the State of Michigan. Each of the telephone companies identified in the Agreement is an "incumbent local exchange carrier" as that term is defined in §251(H) and used in §252(a) of the Act.

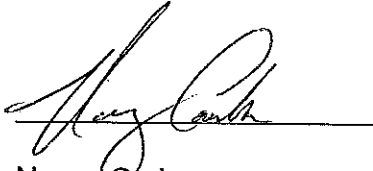
2. Nextel West Corp. ("Nextel") , is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to provide commercial mobile radio service and provides such service to its end user customers, operating wireless affiliates and switch share/managed markets.
3. The Agreement was arrived at through voluntary negotiations between the parties as contemplated by §251(a) of the Act.
4. The Agreement establishes a reciprocal compensation interconnection arrangement that compensates each other for terminating local telecommunications traffic that originates on the other party's network.
5. Pursuant to §252(a)(1) of the Act, an agreement arrived at through negotiations is to be submitted to the State commission and §252(e)(1) provides that the State commission to which an agreement is submitted shall approve or reject the agreement, with written findings as to any deficiencies. Pursuant to §252(e)(2), this Commission may only reject the agreement if the Commission finds that:
 - (a) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or

(b) the implementation of such agreement (or portion thereof) is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

6. As contemplated by §252(e)(2)(a) and (b), the Agreement does not discriminate against any telecommunications carrier not a party to the Agreement and implementation of the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. CenturyTel will make these arrangements available to any other requesting carrier operating within the service territories of its Michigan companies on the same terms and conditions as those provided in the Agreement in accordance with §252(l) of the Act. The Agreement will not preclude different arrangements with other telecommunications carriers. Other telecommunications carriers may negotiate their own arrangements with CenturyTel pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Act.
7. CenturyTel respectfully requests the Commission approve the Agreement as soon as possible. This request is made in accordance with §252(e)(4) of the Act. This provision provides that the Agreement shall be approved if the Commission does not act to approve or reject the agreement within 90 days after submission by the parties.
8. Vickie M. Norris, 17 South High Street, Suite 1250, Columbus, OH 43215, is the regulatory contact person for CenturyTel.
9. Francis J. Runkel, 2615 East Avenue south, Lacrosse Wisconsin 54602-4800, is the Carrier Relations contact person for CenturyTel.
10. Bob Edgerly, Sr. Manager, Industry Affairs, 2001 Edmund Halley Drive, Reston, VA 20191, is the contact person for Nextel.

WHEREFORE, applicants jointly request Commission approval of the Agreement pursuant to MTA §203 (1) and §252(e) of the Act.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Carlsen
Director, Telco Management
Nextel Communications
2001 Edmund Halley Drive
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 433-8021



Vickie M. Norris
Director, Government Relations
CenturyTel
17 South High Street, Suite 1250
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 221-5354

INTERCONNECTION AND RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION AGREEMENT

By and Between

CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc.
CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc.
CenturyTel of Midwest, Inc.
CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc.

And

Nextel West Corp.

For the state of

Michigan

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This Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement ("Agreement"), is entered into by and between CenturyTel's Michigan Local Exchange Companies as listed on Attachment 2 ("CenturyTel") and Nextel West Corp. ("Nextel"), (collectively, "the Parties").

WHEREAS, Nextel is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to provide commercial mobile radio service ("CMRS") and provides such service to its end user customers, operating wireless affiliates and switch share/managed markets; and

WHEREAS, CenturyTel is a certified provider of local exchange service; and

WHEREAS, Nextel terminates local telecommunications traffic that originates from CenturyTel's subscribers, and CenturyTel terminates local telecommunications traffic that originates from Nextel's subscribers; and

WHEREAS, Nextel provides a point of interconnection in the CenturyTel service areas, or interconnects with CenturyTel's network via a third party tandem switch; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to establish a reciprocal compensation interconnection arrangement that compensates each other for terminating local telecommunications traffic that originates on the other Party's network.

WHEREAS, CenturyTel has on file with the Michigan Public Service Commission Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R "CMRS END OFFICE TERMINATION SERVICE" which provides compensation to CenturyTel for CMRS traffic that terminates on CenturyTel's network.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION of the covenants contained herein, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS.
Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R Part II Section 2.5
2. RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

CenturyTel asserts that it is a "rural telephone company" as that term is defined in the Act, 47 U.S.C. 153. CenturyTel further asserts that, pursuant to Section 251(f)(1) of the Act, CenturyTel is exempt from Section 251(c) of the Act. Notwithstanding such exemption, CenturyTel has entered into and accepted this agreement for purposes of exchanging traffic, as defined herein, with Nextel. CenturyTel's execution of this agreement does not in any way constitute a waiver or limitation of CenturyTel's rights under Section 251(f)(1) or 251(f)(2). Accordingly, CenturyTel expressly reserves the right to assert its right to an exemption or waiver and modification of Section 251(c) of the Act, in response to other requests for interconnection by Nextel or any other carrier.

3. TRAFFIC INTERCHANGED.

Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R Part II

4. FACILITIES.

Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R Part III , Part IV and Part V

5. RATES AND CHARGES.

5.1 Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R Part VI

5.2 The Parties hereby agree to the tariff rates for the facilities and services to be provided pursuant to this Agreement. The Parties hereby agree the rates set forth herein shall become effective when signed by both Parties.. However, the Parties acknowledge this Agreement cannot be implemented until it is duly approved by the Commission. Upon Commission approval of this Agreement, the Parties shall implement and apply the rates as though such rates were approved on the effective date..

Facilities

Rates

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Interconnection Facilities | The rates for these facilities, if provided by CenturyTel, are specified in CenturyTel's applicable tariff |
| 2. Local Network Usage | The Parties agree to compensate each other for terminating traffic that originates on the other Party's network. The reciprocal Local Network Usage rate is identified in Attachment 1. |
| 3. Tandem Switching | Nextel's local traffic that is transported to a CenturyTel end offices via a CenturyTel tandem, Nextel's will compensate CenturyTel for the tandem switched traffic between Nextel and the CenturyTel access tandem at rates defined on Attachment 1. |
| 4. Transiting | Nextel's local traffic that is transported to non-CenturyTel end offices via a CenturyTel tandem, Nextel's will compensate CenturyTel for the tandem switched traffic between Nextel and the non-CenturyTel end office company at rates defined on Attachment 1. By transporting traffic to non-CenturyTel end offices via a CenturyTel tandem, Nextel's assumes any responsibility for compensation to the non-CenturyTel end office company. |

5.2 The charges for Interconnection Facilities shall be determined by CenturyTel's applicable tariff for such facilities. Where these facilities are used for two-way traffic,

the applicable recurring charges (if any) will be reduced by a percentage equal to the percentage of traffic on such facilities that originates on CenturyTel's network and terminates on Nextel's network. This percentage is referred to as the Land to Mobile Traffic Factor on Attachment 1. The Parties agree that they will review the initial percentages based on actual usage after the initial six (6) months and will revise the percentage at the time. The Parties agree to evaluate the percentage in each subsequent six (6) months.

- 5.3 Each Party shall compensate the other for transport and termination of Local Traffic at the reciprocal Local Network Usage rates set forth in Attachment 1. Traffic that originates on either Parties' network and terminates on the other Parties' network via a third party tandem (transit traffic) will be charged at the Local Network usage rates set forth in Attachment 1.
- 5.4 The Parties will exchange billing information on a monthly basis. The Parties will prepare their bills in accordance with their existing CABS billing systems. The Parties will make an effort to conform to current and future OBF standards, insofar as is reasonable. In the event that neither Party is capable of measuring, or has access to a measurement of traffic originating on CenturyTel's network, the charge to Nextel for Local Network Usage shall be based upon a mutually agreed upon assumed usage factor.

For purposes of billing compensation for the interchange of Local Traffic, billed minutes will be based upon conversation time. Conversation time will be determined from actual usage recordings. Conversation time begins when the originating Party's network receives answer supervision and ends when the originating Party's network receives disconnect supervision.

- 6 BILLING AND PAYMENT OF CHARGES.
Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R
7. NON-LOCAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAFFIC.
Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R
8. CREDIT ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS.
Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R
9. SERVICE ORDERS.
Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R
10. IMPAIRMENT OF SERVICE.
Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R

11. RESOLUTION.

If either Party causes an Impairment of Service, the Party whose network or service is being impaired (the "Impaired Party") shall promptly notify the Party causing the Impairment of Service (the "Impairing Party") of the nature and location of the problem and that, unless promptly rectified, a temporary discontinuance of the use of any circuit, facility or equipment may be required. The Impairing Party and the Impaired Party agree to work together to attempt to promptly resolve the Impairment of Service. If the Impairing Party is unable to promptly remedy the Impairment of Service, then the Impaired Party may at its option temporarily discontinue the use of the affected circuit, facility or equipment.

12. TROUBLE REPORTING.

In order to facilitate trouble reporting and to coordinate the repair of Interconnection Facilities, trunks, and other interconnection arrangements provided by the Parties under this Agreement, each Party has established a single point of contact available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, at telephone numbers to be provided by the Parties. Each Party shall call the other at these respective telephone numbers to report trouble with connection facilities, trunks, and other interconnection arrangements, to inquire as to the status of trouble ticket numbers in progress, and to escalate trouble resolution.

Before either Party reports a trouble condition, it must first use its reasonable efforts to isolate the trouble to the other Party's facilities, service, and arrangements. Each Party will advise the other of any critical nature of the inoperative facilities, service, and arrangements and any need for expedited clearance of trouble. In cases where a Party has indicated the essential or critical need for restoration of the facilities, services or arrangements, the other Party shall use its best efforts to expedite the clearance of trouble.

13. TERM AND TERMINATION.

13.1 This Agreement shall take effect as of the date it is signed by both Parties and have an initial term of one year, unless earlier terminated as provided for in this Agreement, and shall continue in force and effect thereafter, until replaced by another agreement or terminated by either Party upon 30 days written notice to the other.

Notwithstanding a notice of termination, this Agreement shall remain in effect until replaced by another agreement negotiated or arbitrated between the Parties pursuant to applicable law within 365 calendar days from the date that the notice of termination was received. This Agreement shall terminate on the 366th day after the date that the notice of termination was received if the Agreement has not been superseded by another agreement.

If this agreement is terminated, each Party agrees to disconnect from each other's network.

13.2 Notwithstanding 13.1, this Agreement shall be terminated in the event that:

- a) the FCC revokes, cancels, does not renew or otherwise terminates Nextel's authorization to provide CMRS in the area served by CenturyTel, or the Commission revokes, cancels, or otherwise terminates CenturyTel's certification to provide local service;
- b) either Party becomes bankrupt or insolvent, makes a general assignment for the benefit of, or enters into any arrangement with creditors, files a voluntary petition under any bankruptcy, insolvency or similar laws, or proceedings are instituted under any such laws seeking the appointment of a receiver, trustee or liquidator instituted against it which are not terminated within 60 days of such commencement.

13.3 Either Party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon written notice to the other Party in the event:

- a) a Party is in arrears in the payment of any undisputed amount due under this Agreement for more than 90 days, and the Party does not pay such sums within ten business days of the other Party's demand for payment;
- b) a Party is in material breach of the provisions of this Agreement and that breach continues for a period of thirty days after the other Party notifies the breaching Party of such breach, including a reasonably detailed statement of the nature of the breach.

14. LIABILITY UPON TERMINATION.

Termination of this Agreement, or any part hereof, for any cause shall not release either Party from any liability which at the time of termination had already accrued to the other Party or which thereafter accrues in any respect to any act or omission occurring prior to the termination or from an obligation which is expressly stated in this Agreement to survive termination.

15. AMENDMENTS.

Any amendment, modification, or supplement to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each Party. The term "this Agreement" shall include future amendments, modifications, and supplements.

16. ASSIGNMENT.

Any assignment by either Party of any right, obligation, or duty, in whole or in part, or of any interest, without the written consent of the other Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, shall be void, except that either Party may assign all of its rights, and

delegate its obligations, liabilities and duties under this Agreement, either in whole or in part, to any entity that is, or that was immediately preceding such assignment, a Subsidiary or Affiliate of that Party without consent, but with written notification. The effectiveness of an assignment shall be conditioned upon the assignee's written assumption of the rights, obligations, and duties of the assigning Party.

17. AUTHORITY.

Each person whose signature appears on this Agreement represents and warrants that he or she has authority to bind the Party on whose behalf he or she has executed this Agreement.

18. BINDING AFFECT.

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

19. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Each Party shall comply with all federal, state, and local statutes, regulations, rules, ordinances, judicial decisions, and administrative rulings applicable to its performance under this Agreement.

20. ENTIRE AGREEMENT.

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties pertaining to the subject matter of this Agreement and supersedes all prior agreements, negotiations, proposals, and representations, whether written or oral, and all contemporaneous oral agreements, negotiations, proposals, and representations concerning such subject matter. No representations, understandings, agreements, or warranties, expressed or implied, have been made or relied upon in the making of this Agreement other than those specifically set forth herein.

21. EXPENSES.

Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, each Party shall be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the subject of this Agreement.

22. FORCE MAJEURE.

In the event performance of this Agreement, or any obligation hereunder, is either directly or indirectly prevented, restricted, or interfered with by reason of fire, flood, earthquake or like acts of God, wars, revolution, civil commotion, explosion, acts of public enemy, embargo, acts of the government in its sovereign capacity, labor difficulties, including without limitation, strikes, slowdowns, picketing, or boycotts, unavailability of equipment from vendor, changes requested by the other Party, or any other circumstances beyond the

reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of the Party affected, the Party affected, upon giving prompt notice to the other Party, shall be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such prevention, restriction, or interference (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-to-day basis until the delay, restriction or interference has ceased); provided however, that the Party so affected shall use diligent efforts to avoid or remove such causes of nonperformance and both Parties shall proceed whenever such causes are removed or cease.

23. GOVERNING LAW.

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the domestic laws of the state of Michigan as well as the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and other federal laws, and shall be subject to exclusive jurisdiction of the courts and/or regulatory commission of such state, except to the extent that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and other federal laws provide for federal jurisdiction.

24. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIP.

The persons implementing this Agreement on behalf of each Party shall be solely that Party's employees or contractors and shall be under the sole and exclusive direction and control of that Party. They shall not be considered employees of the other Party for any purpose. Each Party shall remain an independent contractor with respect to the other and shall be responsible for compliance with all laws, rules and regulations involving, but not limited to, employment of labor, hours of labor, health and safety, working conditions and payment of wages. Each Party shall also be responsible for payment of taxes, including federal, state and municipal taxes, chargeable or assessed with respect to its employees, such as Social Security, unemployment, workers' compensation, disability insurance, and federal and state withholding. Each Party shall indemnify the other for any loss, damage, liability, claim, demand, or penalty that may be sustained by reason of its failure to comply with this provision.

25. LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY.

25.1 Indemnification.

Each Party agrees to release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the other Party from all losses, claims, demands, damages, expenses, suits, or other actions, or any liability whatsoever, including, but not limited to, costs and attorney's fees, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by any other Party or person, for invasion of privacy, personal injury to or death of any person or persons, or for losses, damages, or destruction of property, whether or not owned by others, proximately caused by the indemnifying Party's negligence or willful misconduct, regardless of form of action.

25.2 End User and Content-Related Claims.

Customer (that Party receiving service from the other Party, i.e., Provider) agrees to release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Provider, its affiliates, and any third-party provider or operator of facilities involved in the provision of services or facilities under this Agreement (collectively, the "Indemnified Parties") from all losses, claims, demands, damages, expenses, suits, or other actions, or any liability whatsoever, including, but not limited to, costs and attorney's fees, suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by Customer's end users against an Indemnified Party arising from provision of the services or facilities. Customer further agrees to release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Indemnified Parties from all losses, claims, demands, damages, expenses, suits, or other actions, or any liability whatsoever, including, but not limited to, costs and attorney's fees, suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by any third party against an Indemnified Party arising from or in any way related to actual or alleged defamation, libel, slander, interference with or misappropriation of proprietary or creative right, or any other injury to any person or property arising out of content transmitted by Customer or Customer's end users, or any other act or omission of Customer or Customer's end users.

25.3. Disclaimer.

EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED TO THE CONTRARY IN THIS AGREEMENT, PROVIDER MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES TO CUSTOMER CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC QUALITY OF ANY SERVICES OR FACILITIES PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. PROVIDER DISCLAIMS, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTY OR GUARANTEE OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARISING FROM COURSE OF PERFORMANCE, COURSE OF DEALING, OR FROM USAGES OF TRADE.

25.4 Limitation of Liability.

Provider's liability, whether in tort or otherwise, shall be limited to direct damages, which shall not exceed the pro rata portion of the monthly charges for the services or facilities for the time period during which the services or facilities provided pursuant to this Agreement are inoperative, not to exceed in total Provider's monthly charge to Customer. Under no circumstance shall Provider be responsible or liable for indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including, but not limited to, economic loss or lost business or profits, damages arising from the use provisioning of services hereunder.

26. DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

26.1 Alternative to Litigation.

Except as provided under Section 252 of the Act with respect to the approval of this Agreement by the Commission, the Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order or an injunction related to the purposes of this Agreement, or suit to compel

compliance with this dispute resolution process, the Parties agree to use the following alternative dispute resolution procedures with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.

26.2 Negotiations.

At the written request of a Party, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The Parties intend that these negotiations be conducted by non-lawyer, business representatives. The location, format, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions shall be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and correspondence among the representatives for purposes of these negotiations shall be treated as confidential information developed for purposes of settlement, exempt from discovery, and shall not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of all Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and may, if otherwise discoverable, be discovered or otherwise admissible, be admitted in evidence, in the arbitration or lawsuit.

26.3 Arbitration.

If the negotiations do not resolve the dispute within sixty (60) Business Days of the initial written request, the dispute shall be submitted to binding arbitration by a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association except that the parties may select an arbitrator outside American Arbitration Association rules upon mutual agreement. A Party may demand such arbitration in accordance with the procedures set out in those rules. Discovery shall be controlled by the arbitrator and shall be permitted to the extent set out in this section. Each Party may submit in writing to a Party, and that Party shall so respond to, a maximum of any combination of thirty-five (35) (none of which may have subparts) of the following: interrogatories, demands to produce documents, or requests for admission. Each Party is also entitled to take the oral deposition of one individual of another Party. Additional discovery may be permitted upon mutual agreement of the Parties. The arbitration hearing shall be commenced within sixty (60) Business Days of the demand for arbitration. The arbitration shall be held in Lansing, Michigan or in a mutually agreeable alternative city. The arbitrator shall control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties may submit written briefs. The arbitrator shall rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) Business Days after the close of hearings. The times specified in this section may be extended upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

26.4 Expedited Arbitration Procedures.

If the issue to be resolved through the negotiations referenced in Section 26.2 directly and materially affects service to either Party's end user customers, then the period of resolution of

the dispute through negotiations before the dispute is to be submitted to binding arbitration shall be five (5) Business Days. Should such a service-affecting dispute be submitted to arbitration, the arbitration shall be conducted pursuant to the expedited procedure rules of the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association (i.e., rules 53 through 56).

26.5 Costs.

Each Party shall bear its own costs of these procedures. The Parties shall equally split the fees of the arbitration and the arbitrator.

26.6 Continuous Service.

The Parties shall continue providing services to each other during the pendency of any dispute resolution procedure, and the parties shall continue to perform their obligations (including making payments in accordance with Section 6) in accordance with this Agreement.

27. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

27.1 Identification.

Either Party may disclose to the other proprietary or confidential customer, technical, or business information in written, graphic, oral or other tangible or intangible forms ("Confidential Information"). In order for information to be considered Confidential Information under this Agreement, it must be marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary," or bear a marking of similar import. Orally or visually disclosed information shall be deemed Confidential Information only if contemporaneously identified as such and reduced to writing and delivered to the other Party with a statement or marking of confidentiality within thirty (30) calendar days after oral or visual disclosure. The following information shall be deemed Confidential Information, whether or not marked as such: orders for services, usage information in any form, and Customer Proprietary Network Information ("CPNI") as that term is defined by the Act and the rules and regulations of the FCC ("Confidential and/or Proprietary Information")

27.2 Handling.

In order to protect such Confidential Information from improper disclosure, each Party agrees:

- (a) That all Confidential Information shall be and shall remain the exclusive property of the Party from whom or from whose representative(s), the Confidential Information is obtained ("Source");
- (b) To limit access to such Confidential Information to authorized employees who have a need to know the Confidential Information for performance of this Agreement;

- (c) To keep such Confidential Information confidential and to use the same level of care to prevent disclosure or unauthorized use of the received Confidential Information as it exercises in protecting its own Confidential Information of a similar nature;
- (d) Not to copy, publish, or disclose such Confidential Information to others or authorize anyone else to copy, publish, or disclose such Confidential Information to others without the prior written approval of the Source;
- (e) To return promptly any copies of such Confidential Information to the Source at its request; and
- (f) To use such Confidential Information only for purposes of fulfilling work or services performed hereunder and for other purposes only upon such terms as may be agreed upon between the Parties in writing.

27.3 Exceptions.

These obligations shall not apply to any Confidential Information that was legally in the recipient's possession prior to receipt from the Source, was received in good faith from a Third Party not subject to a confidential obligation to the Source, now is or later becomes publicly known through no breach of confidential obligation by the recipient, was developed by the recipient without the developing persons having access to any of the Confidential Information received in confidence from the source, or that is required to be disclosed pursuant to subpoena or other process issued by a court or administrative agency having appropriate jurisdiction, provided, however, that the recipient shall give prior notice to the Source and shall reasonably cooperate if the Source deems it necessary to seek protective arrangements.

27.4 Survival.

The obligation of confidentiality and use with respect to Confidential Information disclosed by one Party to the other shall survive any termination of this Agreement for a period of three (3) years from the date of the initial disclosure of the Confidential Information.

28. NOTICES.

Any notice to a Party required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been received on the date of service if served personally, on the date receipt is acknowledged in writing by the recipient if delivered by regular U.S. mail, or on the date stated on the receipt if delivered by certified or registered mail or by a courier service that obtains a written receipt. Notice may also be provided by facsimile, which shall be effective on the next business day following the date of transmission. The Party receiving the notice by facsimile will provide written confirmation to the other Party. Any notice shall be delivered using one of the alternatives mentioned in this section and shall be directed to the applicable

address indicated below or such address as the Party to be notified has designated by giving notice in compliance with this section:

If to CenturyTel: CenturyTel
Carrier Relations Midwestern Region
Attention: Francis J. Runkel
2615 East Avenue South
Lacrosse Wisconsin 54602-4800
Telephone #: 608-796-7894 Facsimile #: 608-796-7890

If to Nextel: Bob Edgerly
Sr. Manager, Industry Affairs
Nextel Communications, Inc.
2001 Edmund Halley Drive
Reston, Va 20191
Telephone #: 703-433-8157 Facsimile #: 703-433-8102

29. REGULATORY AGENCY CONTROL

This Agreement shall at all times be subject to changes, modifications, orders, and rulings by the FCC and/or the Commission to the extent the substance of this Agreement is or becomes subject to the jurisdiction of such agency.

30. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Agreement is held by a court or regulatory agency of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the rest of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected unless removal of that provision results in a material change to this Agreement. If a material change as described in this paragraph occurs as a result of action by a court or regulatory agency, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith for replacement language. If replacement language cannot be agreed upon within a reasonable period, either Party may terminate this Agreement without penalty or liability for such termination upon written notice to the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement effective as of the date signed by both Parties.

Nextel

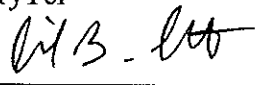
By: 

Name: Nancy Carlsen

Title: Director, Telco Management

Date: 5/17/00

CenturyTel

By: 

Name: CARRICK B. INABNETT

Title: CORPORATE MANAGER-CARRIER RELATIONS

Date: 6/15/00

Attachment 1 CenturyTel Rates

1. Interconnection Facilities
Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No 24R Part VI or appropriate CenturyTel tariff.
2. Traffic Factor

Land-to-Mobile	.30
Mobile-to-Land	.70

3. Local Network Usage

Reciprocal Compensation

Each party agrees to compensate the other for terminating local service area calls originated on its network.

End Office Local Call Termination \$.0207*

* Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff M.P.S.C. No. 24R Part VI

Tandem Switching and Transport

CenturyTel may provide tandem switching and transport for a local call originating on Nextel's network and tandem switched by CenturyTel access tandem to another CenturyTel end office. The rates are as follows:

Tandem Switching	\$.008562	per minute of use
Tandem Transport	.001700*	per minute per termination
Tandem Transport Facility Mileage	.000540*	per minute per mile

Transiting - Local

CenturyTel may provide transiting of local traffic which is tandem switched and transported by CenturyTel on behalf of Nextel to a non-CenturyTel end office that subtends the CenturyTel tandem switch at the following rates:

Tandem Switching	\$.008562	per minute of use
Tandem Transport	.001700*	per minute per termination
Tandem Transport Facility Mileage	.000540*	per minute per mile

4. Interconnection arrangement

To be determined by Nextel and CenturyTel.

Attachment II CenturyTel's Michigan Local Exchange Companies

CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc.

CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc.

CenturyTel of Midwest, Inc.

CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc.