

DT06-070

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

May 1, 2006

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Debra A. Howland, Executive Director
& Secretary
Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

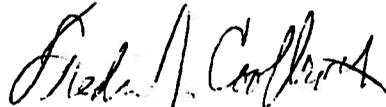
Re: Granite State Telephone, Inc.
Petition for Approval of Interconnection Agreement

Dear Ms. Howland:

Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, enclosed are an original and eight (8) copies of an Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement between Granite State Telephone, Inc. and United States Cellular Corporation, together with a petition requesting approval.

A diskette containing the petition is also enclosed.

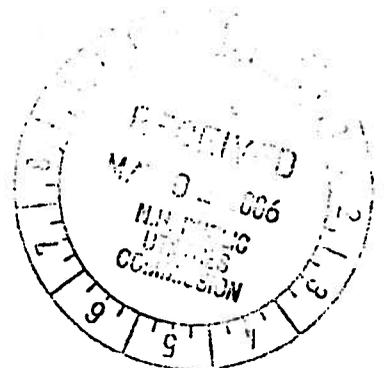
Very truly yours,


Frederick J. Coolbroth

FJC:kaa

Enclosures

cc: Office of Consumer Advocate
William R. Stafford, COO



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DT _____

**Petition for Approval of Interconnection Agreement between
Granite State Telephone, Inc. and United States Cellular Corporation**

Granite State Telephone, Inc. ("GST"), a New Hampshire corporation engaged in business as a telephone utility and an incumbent local exchange carrier subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission, respectfully represents as follows:

1. GST has its principal place of business in South Weare, New Hampshire and provides wireline telecommunication service to the towns of Chester, East Deering, Hillsborough Upper Village, Sandown, Washington, Weare and Windsor as well of sections of the towns of Antrim, Auburn, Derry, Hopkinton and New Boston.

2. United States Cellular Corporation ("US Cellular") is a Delaware corporation with an office at 8410 Bryn Mawr, Suite 700, Chicago, Illinois and is a provider of cellular mobile radio service ("CMRS") within GST's service territory. Pursuant to RSA 362:6, US Cellular is not a public utility under New Hampshire law, and its CMRS services are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

3. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §251(a), GST and US Cellular have entered into a Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement dated April 21, 2006 for effect as of April 15, 2006 (the "Interconnection Agreement").

4. The Interconnection Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions pursuant for GST and US Cellular to interconnect, exchange traffic and compensate one another.

5. The Interconnection Agreement has been executed by GST pursuant to its obligations under 47 U.S.C. §251(a).

6. GST is submitting the Interconnection Agreement to the Commission pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §252(e), which provides for the Commission to either "approve or reject the [Interconnection Agreement] with written findings as to any deficiencies" and further provides that this Commission may only reject the Interconnection Agreement if "the [Interconnection Agreement] (or a portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement...[or] the implementation of [the Interconnection Agreement] or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity."

7. GST knows of no grounds for rejection of the Interconnection Agreement.

WHEREFORE, GST respectfully requests that this Commission approve the Interconnection Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANITE STATE TELEPHONE, INC.

By its Attorneys,

DEVINE, MILLIMET & BRANCH,
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Dated: May 1, 2006

By:



Frederick J. Coolbroth, Esq.
49 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 226-1000

**WIRELESS INTERCONNECTION
AND
RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN

GRANITE STATE TELEPHONE, INC.

AND

UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION

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Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement between Granite State and US Cellular

I. Article I

1. INTRODUCTION

This Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement ("Agreement") is effective as of the 15th day of April 2006 (the "Effective Date"), by and between Granite State Telephone, Inc. ("Granite State") with offices at 600 South Stark Highway, South Weare, NH 03281-5022 and United States Cellular Corporation ("US Cellular"), with offices at 8410 West Bryn Mawr, Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60631-3486.

2. RECITALS

WHEREAS, Granite State is an incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in the State of New Hampshire;

WHEREAS, US Cellular is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to provide Commercial Mobile Radio Services ("CMRS") and provides such service to its end user customers within the State of New Hampshire;

WHEREAS, Granite State and US Cellular exchange calls between their networks and wish to establish Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation arrangements for exchanging traffic as specified below;

WHEREAS, Granite State's entry into this Agreement does not waive its right to maintain that it is a rural company exempt from § 251(c) pursuant to § 251(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act");

WHEREAS, §§ 251 and 252 of the "Act", have specific requirements for Interconnection, and the Parties intend that this Agreement meets these requirements; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual provisions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Granite State and US Cellular hereby agree as follows:

II. Article II

1. DEFINITIONS

Special meanings are given to common words in the telecommunications industry, and coined words and acronyms are common in the custom and usage in the industry. Words used in this contract are to be understood according to the custom and usage of the telecommunications industry, as an exception to the general rule of contract interpretation that words are to be understood in their ordinary and popular sense. In

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addition to this rule of interpretation, the following terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings as specified below:

- 1.1 "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 1.2 "Affiliate" means a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "own" means to own an equity interest (or the equivalent thereof) of more than ten (10) percent.
- 1.3 "Central Office Switch" means a switch used to provide Telecommunications Services, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) "End Office Switch" is a switch in which the subscriber station loops are terminated for connection to either lines or trunks. The subscriber receives terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions for a defined geographic area by means of an End Office Switch.
 - (b) "Remote End Office Switch" is a switch in which the subscriber station loops are terminated. The control equipment providing terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions would reside in a host office. Local switching capabilities may be resident in a Remote End Office Switch.
 - (c) "Host Office Switch" is a switch with centralized control over the functions of one or more Remote End Office Switches. A Host Office Switch can serve as an end office as well as providing services to other remote end offices requiring terminating, signaling, transmission, and related functions including local switching.
 - (d) "Tandem Office Switch" is a switching system that establishes trunk-to-trunk connections. Local tandems switch calls from one end office to another within the same geographic area, and access tandems switch traffic from an end office to and from an Interexchange Carrier. A Tandem Office Switch can provide host office or end office switching functions as well as the tandem functions. A Central Office Switch may also be employed as a combination End Office/Tandem Office Switch.
- 1.4 "Commercial Mobile Radio Services" or "CMRS" means Commercial Mobile Radio Services as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 20.
- 1.5 "Commission" means the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission.
- 1.6 "Extended Area Service" or "EAS" is as defined and specified in Granite State's then current General Subscriber Service Tariff.
- 1.7 "Effective Date" means the date first above written.

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- 1.8 "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 1.9 "Interconnection" is as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 51.5.
- 1.10 "Interexchange Carrier" or "IXC" means a carrier, other than a CMRS provider (with the exception of certain interstate interexchange services provided by CMRS carriers, which are subject to interstate access charges) or LEC that provides or carries, directly or indirectly, InterLATA Service or IntraLATA Toll Traffic.
- 1.11 "InterLATA Service" means telecommunications between a point located in a local access and transport area and a point located outside such area.
- 1.12 "IntraLATA Toll Traffic" means those intraLATA station calls that are not defined as Local Telecommunications Traffic in this Agreement.
- 1.13 "Local Access and Transport Area" or "LATA" is as defined in the Act.
- 1.14 "Local Service Area" means, for US Cellular, Major Trading Area Number 8 (Boston-Providence) and for Granite State, its local calling area contained in Granite State's then current General Subscriber Service Tariff.
- 1.15 "Local Telecommunications Traffic" is defined for all purposes under this Agreement as Local Service Area 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 the other Party's network within the same Major Trading Area (MTA). Local Telecommunications Traffic may be handled pursuant to an approved interconnection agreement between the originating Party and a carrier that performs only a contractual transiting function for the originating Party in lieu of a direct connection between the Parties, provided that the service provided by US Cellular is a two-way mobile service. For purposes of determining originating and terminating points, the originating or terminating point for Granite State shall be the end office serving the calling or called party, and for US Cellular shall be the originating or terminating cell site location which services the calling or called party at the beginning of the call.
- 1.16 "Local Exchange Carrier" or "LEC" is as defined in the Act.
- 1.17 "Major Trading Area" or "MTA" means Major Trading Area as defined by the FCC in 47 C.F.R. § 24.202(a) or other applicable law.
- 1.18 "Mobile Switching Center" or "MSC" is a switch facility that performs the switching for the routing of calls among its mobile subscribers and subscribers in other mobile or landline networks. The MSC is used to connect and switch trunk circuits within the wireless network and between the wireless network and the public switched network for wireless traffic by a CMRS provider.

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- 1.19 “Non-Local Telecommunications Traffic” means all traffic that is not Local Telecommunications Traffic.
- 1.20 “NPA” or the “Number Plan Area” also referred to as an “area code” refers to the three-digit code which precedes the NXX in a dialing sequence and identifies the general calling area within the North American Numbering Plan scope to which a call is routed to (*i.e.*, NPA/NXX-XXXX).
- 1.21 “NXX” means the three-digit code, which appears as the first three digits of a seven-digit telephone number within a valid NPA or area code.
- 1.22 “Party” means either Granite State or US Cellular, and “Parties” means Granite State and US Cellular.
- 1.23 “Point of Interconnection” or “POI” means a physical location where Granite State and US Cellular interconnect their respective networks thereby establishing the technical interface and points for operational division of responsibility. The POI is a technically feasible point of demarcation within Granite State’s network where the exchange of Local Telecommunications Traffic between two carriers takes place.
- 1.24 “Rate Center” means the specific geographic point and corresponding geographic area that is associated with one or more NPA-NXX codes that have been assigned to an incumbent LEC for its provision of exchange services.
- 1.25 “Reciprocal Compensation” means an arrangement between two carriers in which each receives compensation from the other carrier for the Transport and Termination on each carrier’s network of Local Telecommunications Traffic, as defined in § 1.15 above, that originates on the network facilities of the other carrier.
- 1.26 “Telecommunications” means the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user’s choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received as described in the Telecommunications Act. 47 U.S.C. § 153(43).
- 1.27 “Telecommunications Carrier” means any provider of telecommunications services (as defined in the Act), except that such term does not include aggregators of telecommunications services (as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 226(a)(2)).
- 1.28 “Termination” means the switching of Local Telecommunications Traffic at the terminating carrier’s End Office Switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of such traffic to the called party.

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- 1.29 "Transport" means the transmission and any necessary tandem switching of Local Telecommunications Traffic subject to § 251(b)(5) of the Act from the Point of Interconnection between the two carriers to the terminating carrier's End Office Switch that directly serves the called party, or equivalent facility provided by a carrier other than an incumbent LEC.
- 1.30 "Type 2 Service" often referred to as a trunk side connection, is a service that involves interconnection to a telephone company end office (Type 2-B) or tandem (Type 2-A). The Parties agree to use SS7 functionality for all Type 2 Service.

2.0 INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION

All references to Sections, Exhibits and Schedules shall be deemed to be references to Sections of, and Exhibits and Schedules to, this Agreement unless the context shall otherwise require. The headings of the Sections and the terms are inserted for convenience of reference only and are not intended to be a part of or to affect the meaning of this Agreement. Unless the context shall otherwise require, any reference to any agreement, other instrument or other third party offering, guide or practice, statute, regulation, rule or tariff is for convenience of reference only and is not intended to be a part of or to affect the meaning of a rule or tariff as amended and supplemented from time-to-time (and, in the case of a statute, regulation, rule or tariff, to any successor provision).

3.0 SCOPE

3.1 This Agreement is intended, *inter alia*, to describe and enable specific Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation arrangements between the Parties in accordance with the Act and the FCC's implementing rules. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to provide arrangements not specifically provided for herein.

3.2 This Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and rates under which the Parties agree to interconnect the CMRS network of US Cellular and the LEC network of Granite State for purposes of exchanging Local Service Area traffic, provided that the service provided by US Cellular to its customer is a two-way mobile service as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153(27). This Agreement does not cover one-way paging service.

3.3 US Cellular represents that it is a CMRS provider of telecommunications services to subscribers in MTA No. Number 8 (Boston-Providence). US Cellular's NPA/NXXs are listed in Telcordia's Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") for Operating Company Number ("OCN") 6290 in the State of New Hampshire.

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3.4 This Agreement is limited to Granite State end user customers' traffic for which Granite State has tariff authority to carry. Granite State's NPA/NXX(s) are listed in the LERG under OCN 0039.

3.5 Once US Cellular has established a direct connection to Granite State as described in § 4, the Parties agree that any NPA/NXX-X(s) assigned to US Cellular shall be included in any EAS calling scope, for calls that can be completed through such direct interconnection, to the same extent as any other incumbent LEC's NPA/NXX-X(s) in the same rate center provided that US Cellular assigns numbers from such NPA/NXX-X(s) to customers that are within the Local Service Area of Granite State and that US Cellular has network facilities to serve such customers. Granite State agrees to provide dialing parity to US Cellular's NPA/NXX-X(s) in a manner consistent to that provided to other carriers operating within the same Rate Center.

3.6 Traffic exchanged through an Interexchange Carrier ("IXC") is not covered under this Agreement. The Parties agree that if the Commission, the FCC or a court of competent jurisdiction rules otherwise, the Parties may renegotiate the affected provisions of this Agreement as provided for in § 15.

3.7 Any amendment, modification, or supplement to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each Party.

4.0 SERVICE AGREEMENT

Description of Arrangements. This Agreement provides for the following interconnection and arrangements between the networks of Granite State and US Cellular. Additional arrangements that may be agreed to in the future will be delineated in Attachment A to this Agreement. Routing of traffic shall be as described in this section, except that, alternatives may be employed in the event of emergency or temporary equipment failure.

4.1 Direct Interconnection at Weare: A two-way trunk group will be established and provisioned between Granite State's Weare Tandem Office Switch (WEARNHXA01T) and US Cellular, with the POI at Granite State's Weare Tandem Office Switch. This trunk group will be provisioned in connection with US Cellular's NPA/NXX(s) rate centered at Granite State's exchange(s) or EAS exchange(s). The Parties shall exchange Local Service Area traffic *via* this two-way trunk group. Applicable tariff charges for establishing and provisioning this two-way trunk group are billed by Granite State to US Cellular in accordance with § 5.3.4 below.

4.1.1 Landline-to-Wireless: Local Service Area calls from Granite State customers to US Cellular customers shall be routed from Granite State's network to US Cellular's NPA/NXX-Xs assigned to US Cellular's switch *via* the two-way direct trunk group.

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4.1.2 Wireless-to-Landline: Local Service Area calls originated by US Cellular customers within MTA No. 8 (Boston-Providence) or customers of another CMRS provider that has entered into roaming arrangement with US Cellular, while roaming in MTA No. 8, to Granite State's customers served by the Weare Tandem Office Switch be routed from US Cellular's network *via* the two-way direct trunk group to Granite State's Weare Tandem Office Switch for termination by Granite State to its customers, as appropriate.

4.2 Indirect Interconnection at Chester: In an effort to reach an agreement, the Parties have reached the following compromise in the context of this Agreement. It is US Cellular's position that the volume of traffic should determine the need for the establishment of a direct interconnection at Granite State's Chester End Office Switch. It is Granite State's position that a direct connection is required for routing landline-to-wireless Local Traffic. As a compromise, and in exchange for certain other considerations provided for in this Agreement, the Parties agree to interconnect their networks indirectly *via* a third party LEC ("Third Party Tandem Provider") in order to exchange Local Traffic, and that the originating Party is responsible for any transit fees imposed by the Third Party Tandem Provider. The Parties agree that this compromise will in no way prejudice any position either Party may take regarding financial responsibility for charges by Third Party Tandem Providers with respect to future agreements or regulatory or legislative proceedings. This arrangement for indirect interconnection will be subject to renegotiation if by change of law or for any other reason the Third Party Tandem Provider no longer offers the transiting service.

4.3 Where the total Local Traffic exchanged between US Cellular and Granite State's Chester End Office Switch exceeds 300,000 mobile-to-land minutes of use per month for three (3) consecutive months, US Cellular and Granite State shall work cooperatively to implement direct interconnection arrangements and to amend this Agreement, as required. US Cellular may also request an amendment to establish a direct interconnection at Granite State's Chester End Office Switch regardless of the volume of traffic exchanged. For direct interconnection, the POI shall be at any technically feasible point on Granite State's network.

5.0 COMPENSATION

5.1 Traffic Subject to Reciprocal Compensation.

Reciprocal Compensation is applicable for Transport and Termination of Local Telecommunications Traffic as defined in § 1.15 and is related to the exchange of traffic described in § 4 and in Attachment A, as applicable. For the purposes of billing compensation for Local Telecommunications Traffic, billed minutes will be based upon actual usage recorded and/or records/reports provided by the transiting carrier. The requesting Party agrees to pay all charges associated with such records/reports. If either Party cannot measure the traffic, traffic factors shall be used as referenced in § 5.4.4. Measured usage begins when the terminating recording switch receives answer

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supervision from the called end-user and ends when the terminating recording switch receives or sends disconnect (release message) supervision, whichever occurs first. The measured usage is aggregated at the end of the measurement cycle and rounded to a whole minute. Billing for Local Telecommunications Traffic shall be based on the aggregated measured usage less traffic recorded as local that is Non-Local Telecommunications Traffic.

The rate for Reciprocal Compensation is \$0.015 per minute.

The Parties agree to bill each other for Local Telecommunications Traffic as described in this Agreement unless the Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged between the Parties is balanced and falls within an agreed upon threshold ("Traffic Balance Threshold"). The Parties agree that for purposes of this Agreement, the Traffic Balance Threshold is reached when the Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged, both directly and indirectly, falls between 57.5% / 42.5% in either the wireless-to-landline or landline-to-wireless direction. When the actual usage data for three (3) consecutive months indicates that the Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged, both directly and indirectly, falls within the Traffic Balance Threshold, then either Party may provide the other Party a written request, along with verifiable information supporting such request, to eliminate billing for Reciprocal Compensation per minute. Upon written consent by the Party receiving the request, which shall not be withheld unreasonably, there will be no billing for Reciprocal Compensation on a going forward basis unless otherwise agreed to by both Parties, in writing. The Parties' agreement to eliminate billing for Reciprocal Compensation carries with it the precondition regarding the Traffic Balance Threshold discussed above. As such, the two points have been negotiated as one interrelated term containing specific rates and conditions, which are non-separable for purposes of § 15, hereof.

5.2 Traffic Subject to Switched Access Compensation.

Parties agree that traffic rated and recorded as Local Telecommunications Traffic, may originate or terminate in another MTA, and therefore is Non-Local Telecommunications Traffic and subject to Switched Access Compensation.

Switched Access Compensation is applicable to all Non-Local Telecommunications Traffic exchanged between Granite State and US Cellular, to the extent that such traffic is not handed off to an IXC. US Cellular shall compensate Granite State at Granite State's interstate Switched Access rates for all such Non-Local Telecommunications Traffic.

5.3 Calculation of Payments and Billing.

5.3.1 Granite State shall compensate US Cellular for Local Telecommunications Traffic that is delivered by Granite State to US Cellular, as prescribed in § 4 and in Attachment A, as applicable, and at the rate provided in § 5.1. US Cellular will

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compensate Granite State for Local Telecommunications Traffic delivered to Granite State for termination to its customers, as prescribed in § 4, and in Attachment A, as applicable and at the rate provided in § 5.1; for Switched Access Traffic exchanged between US Cellular & Granite State, as prescribed and at the rates provided in § 5.2.

5.3.2 Granite State shall prepare a monthly billing statement to US Cellular which will separately reflect the calculation of Reciprocal Compensation, Access Compensation, and total compensation due Granite State. US Cellular shall prepare a monthly billing statement to Granite State, reflecting the calculation of Reciprocal Compensation due US Cellular. Billing shall be based on actual measured usage, when available. To the extent US Cellular does not have the capability to record and measure landline-to-wireless Local Traffic and Granite State does not provide US Cellular with the actual measurement, then US Cellular may bill Granite State based on the Traffic Factor referenced in § 5.3.4.

5.3.3 Recognizing that Granite State has no way of measuring the Non-Local Telecommunications Traffic and in the event that US Cellular does not track the usage information or perform periodic (quarterly or semi-annual) traffic studies required to identify the Non-Local Telecommunications Traffic originated or terminated by Granite State, Parties agree to a default factor of 0% as an estimate of Non-Local Telecommunications Traffic. The actual recorded usage shall be the basis for billing, when available and verifiable.

5.3.4 Where direct interconnection facilities are used for traffic exchanged between the Parties, the charges for such facilities provided by Granite State shall be shared based on each Party's proportion of originating Local Telecommunications Traffic to total traffic exchanged between the Parties, in accordance with this Agreement. If actual usage data is not available in order to determine the amount of traffic exchanged between the Parties, then an estimated percentage of originating traffic to total traffic may be used. This estimated percentage is referred to as the Traffic Factor and is listed below. The charges for such facilities, excluding cost of new construction, provided and billed by Granite State shall be reduced by applying the Traffic Factor. The Parties agree to review these percentages on a periodic basis and, if warranted by the actual usage, revise the Traffic Factor appropriately. The Traffic Factor may be revised no more than four times in any twelve month period.

- a) Landline-to-Wireless: 25%
- b) Wireless-to-Landline: 75%

5.3.5 Each party may request to inspect, during normal business hours, the records which are the basis for any monthly bill issued by the other Party and to request copies thereof provided that the requested records do not exceed twelve

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(12) months in age from the date the monthly bill containing said record information was issued.

5.3.6 All charges under this agreement shall be billed within one year from the time the charge was incurred; previously unbilled charges more than one year old shall not be billed by either party, and shall not be payable by either party.

6.0 NOTICE OF CHANGES

If a Party contemplates a change in its network, which it believes will materially affect the inter-operability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide at least ninety (90) days advance written notice of such change to the other Party.

7.0 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

7.1 The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including The National Network Security Plan and The Emergency Preparedness Plan. Neither Party shall use any service related to or use any of the Services provided in this Agreement in any manner that prevents other persons from using their service or destroys the normal quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's customers, and subject to notice and a reasonable opportunity of the offending Party to cure any violation, either Party may discontinue or refuse service if the other Party violates this provision.

7.2 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its customers and to other Telecommunications Carriers.

7.3 Each Party is responsible for obtaining Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") listings of the Common Language Location Identifier ("CLLI") assigned to its switches.

7.4 SS7 Out of Band Signaling (CCS/SS7) shall be the signaling of choice for interconnecting trunks where technically feasible for both Parties. Use of a third-party provider of SS7 trunks for connecting US Cellular to the Granite State SS7 systems is permitted. Each Party will be responsible for the payment of its SS7 messaging charges and neither Party will invoice the other Party for any SS7 messaging charges incurred directly or *via* a third-party. Such connections will meet generally accepted industry technical standards.

7.5 Each Party shall be responsible for its own independent connections to the 911/E911 network.

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7.6 The carrier responsible for originating the traffic shall identify all traffic originated by such carrier and provide detailed information to the terminating carrier so that the terminating carrier can render an accurate and timely bill to the originating carrier. Such information shall be rendered as part of the SS7 call record in generally accepted industry format and shall include any available information to help facilitate a timely and accurate billing process. In the event that the minimum information provided for herein is not provided by the originating carrier, the terminating carrier may bill and the originating carrier agrees to pay the terminating carrier the highest jurisdictional rate for all traffic terminated for which complete and accurate information has not been provided.

8.0 TERM AND TERMINATION

8.1 Subject to the provisions of § 14, the initial term of this Agreement shall be for two years ("Term"), which shall commence on the Effective Date. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive six-month periods, unless, not less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the end of the Term or any renewal term, either Party notifies the other Party of its intent to renegotiate a new agreement. In the event of such renegotiation, this Agreement shall remain in effect until such time that a new agreement becomes effective.

8.2 The Parties agree that disputed and undisputed amounts due under this Agreement shall be handled as follows:

8.2.1 If any portion of an amount due to a Party (the "Billing Party") under this Agreement is subject to a bona fide dispute between the Parties, the Party billed (the "Non-Paying Party") shall, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the invoice containing such disputed amount, 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. The Non-Paying Party shall pay when due all undisputed amounts to the Billing Party. The Parties will work together in good faith to resolve issues relating to the disputed amounts. If the billed Party has paid a bill which is subsequently disputed and the dispute is resolved in favor of the billed Party, the billed Party will be credited by the Billing Party with interest on any disputed amounts as have been paid by the billed Party at the rate of one percent (1%) per month, from the date the Billing Party received payment up to and including the date of refund. If the dispute is resolved such that payment of the disputed amount is required, whether for the original full amount or for the settlement amount, the Non-Paying Party shall pay the full disputed or settlement amounts with interest at the lesser of (i) one percent (1%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under New Hampshire's applicable law. In no case, however, will any adjustments, credits or payments be made for errors or omissions that are more than two (2) years old. In addition, the Billing Party may initiate a complaint proceeding with the appropriate regulatory or judicial entity, if unpaid undisputed amounts become more than ninety (90) days past due,

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provided the Billing Party gives an additional thirty (30) days notice and opportunity to cure the default.

8.2.2 Any undisputed amounts not paid when due shall accrue interest from the date such amounts were due at the lesser of (i) one percent (1%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under New Hampshire's applicable law.

8.2.3 Undisputed amounts shall be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice from the Billing Party.

8.3 Invoices shall be sent to:

US Cellular Corporation	Granite State Telephone, Inc.
US Cellular Corporation P.O. Box 31790 Chicago, IL 60631-0790 Attn: Telco Billing	Granite State Telephone 600 South Stark Highway P.O. Box 87 South Weare, NH 03281-0087 Attn: Karen Remillard

8.4 Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement in accordance with this Section:

(a) Each Party shall comply immediately with its obligations as set forth above;

(b) Each Party shall promptly pay all amounts (including any late payment charges) owed under this Agreement;

(c) Each Party's indemnification obligations shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

8.5 The non-defaulting Party may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part in the event of a default of the other Party, provided, however, that the non-defaulting Party notifies the defaulting Party in writing of the alleged default and the defaulting Party does not implement mutually acceptable steps to remedy such alleged default within thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice thereof.

9.0 CANCELLATION CHARGES

Except as provided herein, no cancellation charges shall apply.

10.0 NON-SEVERABILITY

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10.1 The services, arrangements, terms and conditions of this Agreement were mutually negotiated by the Parties as a total arrangement and are intended to be non-severable.

10.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring or permitting either Party to contravene any mandatory requirement of federal or state law, or any regulations or orders adopted pursuant to such law.

11.0 INDEMNIFICATION

11.1 Each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall indemnify and hold harmless the other Party ("Indemnified Party") from and against loss, cost, claim liability, damage, and expense (including reasonable attorney's fees) to customers and other third parties for:

- (1) damage to tangible personal property or for personal injury proximately caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnifying Party, its employees, agents or contractors;
- (2) claims for libel, slander, or infringement of copyright arising from the material transmitted over the Indemnified Party's facilities arising from the Indemnifying Party's own communications; and
- (3) claims for infringement of patents arising from combining the Indemnified Party's facilities or services with, or the using of the Indemnified Party's services or facilities in connection with, facilities of the Indemnifying Party.

Neither Party shall accept terms of a settlement that involves or references the other Party in any matter without the other Party's approval.

Notwithstanding this indemnification provision or any other provision in the Agreement, neither Party, nor its parent, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, or employees, shall be liable to the other for Consequential Damages (as defined in § 12.3).

11.2 The Indemnified Party will notify the Indemnifying Party promptly in writing of any claims, lawsuits, or demands by customers or other third parties for which the Indemnified Party alleges that the Indemnifying Party is responsible under this Section, and, if requested by the Indemnifying Party, will tender the defense of such claim, lawsuit or demand.

- (1) In the event the Indemnifying Party does not promptly assume or diligently pursue the defense of the tendered action, then the Indemnified Party may proceed to defend or settle said action and the Indemnifying Party shall hold harmless the Indemnified Party from any loss, cost liability, damage and expense.

(2) In the event the Party otherwise entitled to indemnification from the other elects to decline such indemnification, then the Party making such an election may, at its own expense, assume defense and settlement of the claim, lawsuit or demand.

(3) The Parties will cooperate in every reasonable manner with the defense or settlement of any claim, demand, or lawsuit.

12.0 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

12.1 No liability shall attach to either Party, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees, officers, directors, or partners for damages arising from errors, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, or delays in the course of establishing, furnishing, rearranging, moving, terminating, changing, or providing or failing to provide services or facilities (including the obtaining or furnishing of information with respect thereof or with respect to users of the services or facilities) in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

12.2 Except as otherwise provided in § 11.0, no Party shall be liable to the other Party for any loss, defect or equipment failure caused by the conduct of the first Party, its agents, servants, contractors or others acting in aid or concert with that Party, except in the case of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

12.3 Except as otherwise provided in § 11.0, no Party shall have any liability whatsoever to the other Party for any indirect, special, consequential, incidental or punitive damages, including but not limited to loss of anticipated profits or revenue or other economic loss in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted or done hereunder (collectively, "Consequential Damages"), even if the other Party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

13.0 DISCLAIMER

EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED HEREIN, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY AS TO MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR INTENDED OR PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO SERVICES PROVIDED HEREUNDER. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER PARTY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER PARTY WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD-PARTY.

14.0 REGULATORY APPROVAL

The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement will be filed with the Commission, and to the extent required by FCC rules may thereafter be filed with the FCC. Each Party covenants and agrees to fully support approval of this Agreement by the Commission or the FCC under § 252(e) of the Act without modification. The Parties, however, reserve the right to seek regulatory relief and otherwise seek redress from each other regarding performance and implementation of this Agreement. In the event the Commission or FCC rejects this Agreement in whole or in part, the Parties agree to meet and negotiate in good faith to arrive at a mutually acceptable modification of the rejected portion(s). Further, this Agreement is subject to change, modification, or cancellation as may be required by a regulatory authority or court in the exercise of its lawful jurisdiction.

The Parties agree that their entrance into this Agreement is without prejudice to any positions they may have taken previously, or may take in future, in any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related to the same types of arrangements covered in this Agreement.

15.0 CHANGE IN LAW

The Parties acknowledge that the respective rights and obligations of each Party as set forth in this Agreement are based on the text of the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the FCC and the Commission as of the Effective Date ("Applicable Rules"). In the event of any amendment to the Act, any effective legislative action or any effective regulatory or judicial order, rule, regulation, arbitration award, dispute resolution procedures under this Agreement or other legal action purporting to apply the provisions of the Act to the Parties or in which the FCC or the Commission makes a generic determination that is generally applicable which revises, modifies or reverses the Applicable Rules (individually and collectively, Amended Rules), 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 the pricing, terms and conditions of each such Amended Rules relating to any of the provisions in this Agreement.

16.0 MOST FAVORED NATION PROVISION

In accordance with § 252(i) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 51.809, US Cellular shall be entitled to adopt from Granite State any entire Interconnection/Compensation agreement provided by Granite State to any other CMRS provider that has been filed and approved by the Commission, for services described in such Agreement, on the same terms and conditions. The term of the adopted agreement shall expire on the same date as set forth in the agreement that was adopted.

17.0 MISCELLANEOUS

17.1 Authorization

17.1.1 Granite State Telephone, Inc. is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of New Hampshire and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to any necessary regulatory approval.

17.1.2 United States Cellular Corporation is a corporation 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 hereunder, subject to any necessary regulatory approval.

17.2 Compliance. Each Party shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations applicable to its performance under this Agreement.

17.3 Independent Contractors. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by US Cellular or Granite State in compliance with this Agreement, shall be deemed to create an agency or joint venture relationship between US Cellular and Granite State, or any relationship other than that of co-carriers. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by US Cellular or Granite State in compliance with this Agreement, shall create a contractual, agency, or any other type of relationship or third party liability between US Cellular and Granite State end users or others.

17.4 Force Majeure. Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, work stoppages, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions or any other circumstances beyond the reasonable control and without fault or negligence of the Party affected. (collectively, a "Force Majeure Event"). If any Force Majeure condition occurs, the Party delayed or unable to perform shall give immediate notice to the other Party and shall take all reasonable steps to correct the Force Majeure condition. During the pendency of the Force Majeure, the duties of the Parties under this Agreement affected by the Force Majeure condition shall be abated and shall resume without liability thereafter.

17.5 Confidentiality

17.5.1 Any information such as specifications, drawings, sketches, business information, forecasts, models, samples, data, computer programs and other software and documentation of one Party (a Disclosing Party) that is furnished or made available or otherwise disclosed to the other Party or any of its employees, contractors, or agents (its "Representatives" and with a Party, a "Receiving

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Party”) pursuant to this Agreement (“Proprietary Information”) shall be deemed the property of the Disclosing Party. Proprietary Information, if written, shall be clearly and conspicuously marked “Confidential” or “Proprietary” or other similar notice, and, if oral or visual, shall be confirmed in writing as confidential by the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days after disclosure. Unless Proprietary Information was previously known by the Receiving Party free of any obligation to keep it confidential, or has been or is subsequently made public by an act not attributable to the Receiving Party, or is explicitly agreed in writing not to be regarded as confidential, such information: (i) shall be held in confidence by each Receiving Party; (ii) shall be disclosed to only those persons who have a need for it in connection with the provision of services required to fulfill this Agreement and shall be used by those persons only for such purposes; and (iii) may be used for other purposes only upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to in advance of such use in writing by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a Receiving Party shall be entitled to disclose or provide Proprietary Information as required by any governmental authority or applicable law, upon advice of counsel, only in accordance with § 17.5.2 of this Agreement.

17.5.2 If any Receiving Party is required by any governmental authority or by applicable law to disclose any Proprietary Information, then such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible and prior to such disclosure. The Disclosing Party may then seek appropriate protective relief from all or part of such requirement. The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief, which such Disclosing Party chooses to obtain.

17.5.3 In the event of the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, each Party shall return to the other Party or destroy all Proprietary Information and other documents, work papers and other material (including all copies thereof) obtained from the other Party in connection with this Agreement and shall use all reasonable efforts, including instructing its employees and others who have had access to such information, to keep confidential and not to use any such information, unless such information is now, or is hereafter disclosed, through no act, omission or fault of such Party, in any manner making it available to the general public.

17.6 Governing Law. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction (primary or otherwise) of the FCC, the exclusive jurisdiction and remedy for all such claims shall be as provided for by the FCC and the Act. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction (primary or otherwise) of the Commission, the exclusive jurisdiction for all such claims shall be with the Commission, and the exclusive remedy for such claims shall be as provided for by such Commission. In all other respects, this Agreement shall be governed by the

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domestic laws of the State of New Hampshire without reference to conflict of law provisions.

The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be subject to any and all applicable laws, rules, regulations or guidelines that subsequently may be adopted by any federal, state, or local government authority. Any modifications to this Agreement occasioned by such change shall be effected through good faith negotiations.

17.7 Taxes. Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation by the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to provide in a timely manner such sale for resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party.

17.8 Assignment. This Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties and shall continue to be binding upon all such entities regardless of any subsequent change in their ownership. Except as provided in this paragraph, neither Party may assign or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a third party without the prior written consent of the other Party which consent will not be unreasonably withheld; provided that either Party may assign this Agreement to a corporate Affiliate or an entity under its common control or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void *ab initio*. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.

17.9 Non-Waiver. Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege.

17.10 Notices.

17.10.1 Notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be: (i) delivered personally; or (ii) delivered by express delivery service; or (iii) mailed, certified mail, return receipt requested to the following addresses of the Parties:

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To: US Cellular

US Cellular Corporation
8410 West Bryn Mawr, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60631-3486

Attn: Jim Naumann

With copy to:
Stephen P. Fitzell, Esquire
c/o Sidley Austin LLP
One South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60603

To: Granite State

Granite State Telephone
600 South Stark Highway
P.O. Box 87
South Weare, NH 03281-0087

Attn: William Stafford

Or to such other address as either Party shall designate by proper notice. Notices will be deemed given as of the earlier of: (i) the date of actual receipt; (ii) the next business day when notice is sent *via* express mail or personal delivery; (iii) three (3) days after mailing in the case of certified U.S. mail.

17.10.2 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 contact(s) 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.

24-Hour Network Management Contact:

For Granite State:

NOC/Repair Contact Number: 603-529-9931

For US Cellular:

NOC/Repair Contact Number: 224-653-3101

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.

17.10.3 Granite State will provide applicable repair and restoration services that are at a level of quality that are equal to that which Granite State provides itself, a subsidiary, an affiliate, or any other party. At a minimum, Granite State will design interconnection facilities to meet the same technical criteria and service standards that are used within Granite State's network. This provision is not limited to a consideration of

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service quality as perceived by end users, and includes, but is not limited to, service quality as perceived by US Cellular.

In the event of a service interruption to the interconnection trunks as described in § 4.1 of this Agreement provided by Granite State to US Cellular, other than by the negligence or willful act of US Cellular, and such outage remains for four (4) hours or longer after being reported to be out of order, appropriate adjustments or refunds shall be made to US Cellular. The amount of adjustment or refund shall be determined on the basis of the known period of interruption, generally beginning from the time the service interruption is first reported. The refund to US Cellular shall be the pro rata part of the monthly flat rate charges for the period of days that portion of the facilities was rendered useless or inoperative. The refund may be accomplished by a credit requested by US Cellular and will be on a subsequent bill.

17.11 Publicity and Use of Trademarks or Service Marks. Neither Party nor its subcontractors or agents shall use the other Party's trademarks, service marks, logos or other proprietary trade dress in any advertising, press releases, publicity matters or other promotional materials without such Party's prior written consent.

17.12 Joint Work Product. This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms. In the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

17.13 No Third Party Beneficiaries; Disclaimer of Agency. This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any third-party beneficiary rights hereunder. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, 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 of, or on behalf of the other Party, unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. 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.

17.14 No License. No license under patents, copyrights, or any other intellectual property right (other than the limited license to use consistent with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Agreement) is granted by either Party, or shall be implied or arise by estoppel with respect to any transactions contemplated under this Agreement.

17.15 Technology Upgrades. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit either Party's ability to upgrade its network through the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise, provided it is to industry standards, and that the Party initiating the upgrade shall provide the other Party written notice at least ninety (90) days prior to the incorporation of any such upgrade in its network which will materially impact the other

Party's service. Each Party shall be solely responsible for the cost and effort of accommodating such changes in its own network.

17.16 Entire Agreement. The terms contained in this Agreement and any Schedules, Exhibits, tariffs and other documents or instruments referred to herein are hereby incorporated into this Agreement by reference as if set forth fully herein, and constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written. Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications. This Agreement may only be modified in writing and signed by an officer or duly authorized employee of each Party.

18.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Except as provided under § 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, to the extent possible, 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 dispute resolution procedures with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.

18.1 Informal Resolution of Disputes. At the written request of a Party, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative, empowered to resolve such dispute, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The Parties intend that non-lawyer, business representatives, conduct these negotiations. 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.

18.2 Formal Dispute Resolution. If negotiations fail to produce an agreeable resolution within ninety (90) days, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanisms; provided, that upon mutual agreement of the Parties such disputes may also be submitted to binding arbitration. In the case of an arbitration, each Party shall bear its own costs. The Parties shall equally split the fees of any mutually agreed upon arbitration procedure and the associated arbitrator.

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18.3 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 payment obligations including making payments in accordance with this Agreement.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the dates listed below.

United States Cellular Corporation	Granite State Telephone, Inc.
By:  Name: <u>Michael Izarry</u> Title: <u>CTO / EVP-Engineering</u> Date: <u>4/17/06</u>	By: <u>Susan Rand King</u> Name: <u>Susan Rand King</u> Title: <u>President</u> Date: <u>4/21/06</u>

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Attachment A

Reserved For Future Use