

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING ACCESS FACILITIES

Question: What are the policies of local telephone companies in Oregon with respect to capital investment for facilities used to provide service to proposed industrial sites? How much of a capacity commitment is required (bandwidth or number of lines) from the customer to make the investment in construction? How long a contract term must be agreed to for the telco to make the capital investment?

Response: For DS1 (1.544 Mbps) circuits and bandwidths below, incumbent telephone companies primarily use loops comprised of twisted pair copper and mixed media of fiber optic transmission connected to twisted pair copper to the end user. In rare cases they may use point-to-point microwave if cable is not viable. Facilities include data switches, wires, cables, circuits, conduit, poles or pole attachment space, service entrances, network interfaces and all other company provided equipment. Telco outside plant engineers will select a transmission medium based on available facilities, cost, and services required at the customer's premises and seek Company funding approval for construction. Services requiring bandwidth at or greater than DS3 (44.736 Mbps) require fiber optic cable and associated optical transmission equipment.

Two factors typically determine the quantity of twisted copper pairs and the qualification of the pairs for different "DS1 and below" service types. First, several Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) have architecture guidelines for twisted copper-based facilities that are specific to square footage and zoning or use of the property. Second, the ILECs also factor in the projected service requirements at a location to help determine the engineered capacity of the cable and equipment installed. Twisted copper pair requirements or alternate forms of transmission specifically at customer request may necessitate Special Construction. However, the assessment of Special Construction charges is rare and conforms to specific guidance in PUC and FCC tariffs.

Contracts or acknowledgement of existing tariffs are generally required for DS3 and above services. Many carriers determine availability of service based on a business case examining cost of construction to a customer location and the projected revenue from the contracted services, rather than a specific number of circuits to drive placement of advanced infrastructure.

Sample tariff references for Provision of Service:

PROVISION OF SERVICES – Qwest Oregon Access Tariff PUC #24

The Company, to the extent that such services are or can be made available with reasonable effort, and after provision has been made for the Company's telephone exchange services, will provide to the customer upon reasonable notice services offered in other applicable sections of this Tariff, or in other documents of the Company, at rates and charges specified therein.

***PROVISION of Facilities for Intrastate Access (FIA) -
PUC Oregon #12 Verizon Northwest, Inc.***

(A) The Company, to the extent that such FIA are or can be made available with reasonable effort, and after provisions have been made for the Company's local service, will provide to the customer, upon reasonable notice, FIA offered in other applicable sections of this tariff at rates and charges specified therein.

(B) FIA provided to a customer under this tariff may be connected directly to customer facilities and/or may be connected to access facilities of another telephone company or companies in the joint provision of intrastate access.

***INSTALLATION AND TERMINATION OF SERVICES– Qwest Oregon Access
Tariff PUC #24***

*All Services Except Expanded Interconnection and Virtual Collocation Service
The services provided under this Tariff (1) will include any entrance cable or drop wiring to that point where provision is made for termination of the Company's outside distribution network facilities at a suitable location at a customer designated premises and (2) will be installed by the Company to such Point of Termination (POT). Access Service has only one POT per customer premises. Any additional terminations beyond such POT are the sole responsibility of the customer.*

***Installation and Termination of Facilities for Intrastate Access (FIA)
PUC Oregon #12 Verizon Northwest, Inc.***

Except as provided for Expanded Interconnection Service specified in Section 18, the FIA provided under this tariff (A) will include any entrance cable or drop wiring and wire or intrabuilding cable to that point where provision is made for termination of the Company's outside distribution network facilities at a suitable location inside a CDL [Customer Designated Location], and (B) will be installed by the Company to such point of termination.

Question: When a Telco decides not to make a capital investment, for whatever reason, is there a provision for customers to pay the capital costs? When such an option is used, are the contributed capital amounts credited against future bills?

Response: Yes, if a fiber build, for example, does not meet a Telco's threshold criteria for funding, or if the facilities are deemed to not be reusable by other prospective customers, then "special construction" charges may be applied and will be determined on an individual case basis. These are a component of non-recurring installation charges and are not credited against future monthly recurring charges.

Sample tariff references for Special Construction:

**Conditions For Special Construction-
Qwest Oregon Advanced Communications Services Tariff PUC #27**

1. Special Construction is required when a customer requests service and one or more of the following conditions exist:

- a. The facilities to provide services are not available and, at the request of the customer, the Company designs and/or constructs facilities to provide the services for the customer and there is no other requirement for the facilities so constructed.
- b. At the request of the customer, the Company designs and/or constructs facilities of a type other than that which they would normally furnish in order to provide services for the customer.
- c. In order to comply with requirements specified by the customer, construction by the Company involves a routing and/or design of facilities other than that which they would normally utilize to provide services for the customer.
- d. At the request of the customer, the Company designs and/or constructs a greater quantity of facilities than that which they would otherwise construct in order to fulfill the customer's initial requirements for services.
- e. The facilities to provide services are not available and, at the request of the customer, the Company expedites design and/or construction of facilities at greater expense than would otherwise be incurred.
- f. At the request of a customer, the Company accommodates a change in a service date for the installation of a new service or the rearrangement of an existing service and incurs greater expense than would otherwise be incurred for the design, construction or rearrangement of the service.
- g. The facilities to provide services are not available and, at the request of the customer, the Company designs and constructs temporary facilities to provide services for the period during which the permanent facilities are under construction.

**Conditions For Special Construction-
VERIZON NORTHWEST INC., P.U.C. Oregon #12**

10.1.1 Conditions Requiring Special Construction

Special Construction is required when facilities are not available to meet a customer's ASR and one or more of the following conditions exist:

- The Company has no other requirement for the facilities constructed at the customer's request;
- The customer requests that FIA be furnished using a type of facility, or via a route, other than that which the Company would otherwise utilize in furnishing the requested FIA;
- The customer requests the construction of more facilities than is required to satisfy its ASR;
- The customer requests construction be expedited resulting in added cost to the Company;
- The customer requests that temporary facilities be constructed until permanent facilities are available.

- The customer requests construction of permanent facilities to be used for temporary Video broadcast service.

Question: Since specific costs (as opposed to general policies) are site specific, is there a known contact point in each telephone company for local economic development folks to contact to get site-specific telephone (and broadband) service availability information of the type discussed above?

Response: If there is a prospective customer needing service at a known location, a Telco account manager or sales representative will work with the customer or developer to secure the needed infrastructure and services or provide information on existing service availability.

Question: These are the kinds of information from telcos that would be useful for the economic development team in each Oregon County to have in their kitbags. In the case of Lincoln County it would mean getting information from four different phone companies: Sprint, Qwest, Century Tel, and Pioneer Tel. How can local economic development teams in each Oregon county get access to the telecom information needed for their planning, recruitment and business park development activities?

Response: Local economic development teams can work with property owners and developers to utilize the Oregon Industrial Site Certification Program. www.econ.state.or.us/IC.htm.

Extensive information is available on telco websites, e.g.,

www.sprint.com

www.qwest.com

www.centurytel.com

www.pioneertelephonecoop.com

For further assistance, contact:

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