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Issued: October 30, 2002

Effective: October 31, 2002

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CHECK SHEET

Sheets 1 through 24 inclusive of this tariff are effective as of the date shown at the bottom of the respective sheet(s). Original and revised sheets are named below and comprise all changes from the original tariff and are currently in effect as of the date on the bottom of this sheet.

<u>SHEET</u>	<u>REVISION NUMBER</u> (except as indicated)	<u>EFFECTIVE</u> <u>DATE</u>	
1	1 st Revision	September 15, 2001	
1.1	Originals	October 31, 2002	N
2	2 nd Revision	October 31, 2002	R
3	Originals	February 15, 2000	
4	Originals	February 15, 2000	
5	Originals	February 15, 2000	
6	Originals	February 15, 2000	
7	Originals	February 15, 2000	
8	Originals	February 15, 2000	
9	Originals	February 15, 2000	
10	Originals	February 15, 2000	
11	Originals	February 15, 2000	
12	Originals	February 15, 2000	
13	Originals	February 15, 2000	
14	Originals	February 15, 2000	
15	Originals	February 15, 2000	
16	Originals	February 15, 2000	
17	Originals	February 15, 2000	
18	Originals	September 15, 2001	
19	Originals	September 15, 2001	
20	Originals	September 15, 2001	
21	Originals	October 31, 2002	N
22	Originals	October 31, 2002	N
23	Originals	October 31, 2002	N
24	Originals	October 31, 2002	N

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SECTION 5 – TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**A. ITAC Supplemental Charge:**

Pursuant to the Order by the Illinois Commerce Commission in Docket No. 02-0238, the Company will impose a supplemental charge of ten cents (10 cents) per month per line for all subscriber lines other than Centrex-type lines, and a charge of .10 cents for each Centrex-type line.

B. Link-Up Program**1. General**

- a. The Link-Up Program is a federally funded program established to provide assistance to low-income households. Under the program eligible customers may receive a fifty percent reduction of service connection charges up to \$30.00.
- b. Participation in any of the following assistance programs is required to establish eligibility. The Illinois Department of Human Services will certify the applicant's participation in assistance programs (1) and (2) for purposes of determining eligibility:
 - (1) Medicaid
 - (2) Food Stamps
 - (3) Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - (4) Federal Housing Assistance
 - (5) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- c. The Telephone Company's verification either through the Department of Human Services or, in lieu of electronic verification, applicant's signature on the form contained in Part 757 as Exhibit E, shall constitute proof of income eligibility.
- d. The Link-Up Program connection charge reduction shall be available to only one access line per low-income household.
- e. The fifty percent Link-Up discount shall apply only to service connection charges up to \$30.00.
- f. A participant in the Link-Up Program shall have the option to defer payment of the remaining installment charges over a minimum period of 12 months. Monthly payments to retire the outstanding balance shall be required, but no interest or carrying charges shall apply.

2. Supplemental Link-Up Telephone Assistance Program

- a. In addition to the fifty percent discount described in B.1.a. above, a one-time supplemental credit of up to \$10.00, not to exceed 50% of the total connection charge, will be applied to each new eligible subscriber, as defined in A.1.b. above.
- b. The supplemental Link-Up Program is funded through voluntary contributions from Illinois customers as described in C. following.

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C. Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program

1. General

- a. The Lifeline Program is a federally funded program established to provide monthly assistance to low income households. Eligible subscribers may receive a discount on monthly local exchange access service of \$1.75. In addition, the End User Common Line Charge of \$ 6.00 will be waived for a total monthly credit of \$ 7.75.
- b. The eligibility criteria for the Lifeline Program shall be the same as that provided under the Link-Up Program as specified in Paragraphs A.1.b., c., and d., above.
- c. Lifeline service shall not be disconnected for nonpayment of toll charges.
- d. Qualifying low-income subscribers who voluntarily elect toll blocking where available, will not be required to pay a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline service. This service will only be provided at the customer's request.

2. Supplemental Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program

- a. The supplemental Lifeline Program is funded through voluntary contributions from Illinois customers as described in C. following. In addition to the Federal Lifeline discounts noted in B.1.a. above, an additional discount of \$1.20 will be applied to each eligible subscriber as defined in A.1.b. preceding.
- b. In addition to the Lifeline Telephone Assistance discount, additional Federal Lifeline support in the amount of one-half of the State Lifeline support, or \$0.60, plus an additional \$1.15 in support from Forte Communications plus an additional \$1.15 in Federal Lifeline Carrier Matching support, for a total of \$2.90, will be made available to a qualifying low-income customer.
- c. The eligibility criteria for the supplemental Lifeline Program shall be the same as that provided under Link-Up Program as specified in A. preceding.

D. Universal Telephone Assistance Program (UTSAP) Voluntary Funding

1. Customers wishing to participate in the funding of UTSAP may do so by electing to contribute, on a monthly basis, a fixed amount to be included by the Company on the customer's monthly bill. The voluntary contribution shall not reduce the customer's total monthly bill amount due the Company for telephone services or other charges.
Residential customers may elect to contribute:
 - a) \$0.50
 - b) \$1.00
 - c) \$2.00
 - d) \$5.00
Business customers may elect to contribute:
 - a) \$1.00
 - b) \$5.00
 - c) \$10.00
 - d) \$25.00
2. Customers may elect to discontinue or change the amount of monthly contribution on their bill at any time upon providing at least 30 days notice to Company.
3. Failure by the customer in any month to remit the entire billed amount shall reduce the UTSAP accordingly.

E. Digital Divide Elimination Fund Program

Digital Divide Elimination Fund Program is created as a special fund in the State Treasury to foster elimination of the Digital Divide. All monies in the Fund will be collected by the Company and reported to the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, who will issue grants to the various communities based upon their needs.

1. Customers wishing to participate in the funding of the Program may do so by electing to contribute, on a monthly basis, a fixed amount to be included on the customer's monthly bill. This contribution shall not reduce the customer's total amount due for telecommunications services or other charges appearing on the bill.
2. This contribution will be a line item on the bill and identified as the Digital Divide Fund.
3. Customers may elect to contribute \$.50, \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$25 per month per line.
4. Customers may elect to discontinue or change the amount of the monthly contribution on their bill at any time upon providing at least 30 days notice by telephone or mail to the Company.
5. Failure by the customer in any month to remit the entire billed amount may reduce the contribution accordingly.

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