



July 21, 2003

Tariff Transmittal No. 337 was filed Friday, July 11, to enable former GTE (fGTE) and former Contel (fContel) to begin billing for Default LNP queries - aka Queries of Last Resort. This was filed in Tariff FCC No. 14, Section 6.15, and Tariff FCC No. 16, Section 8.14, and referred to as Service Provider Number Portability (SPNP) Query Service to mirror the former Bell Atlantic (fBA tariffs). The proposed effective date is July 26, 2003. FBA has been billing and continues to bill for these queries via their tariffs (FCC No. 1, Section 13.3.16, and FCC No. 11, Section 13.3.12). The FCC enabled carriers to bill for this service in the FCC Third Report and Order for Telephone Number Portability, adopted May 5, 1998.

SPNP allows, where facilities permit: (1) a local exchange telephone service customer to maintain the same Directory Number (DN) when changing from one telecommunications service provider to another while remaining at the same location; and (2) callers to complete calls to numbers that have been ported.

SPNP is an advanced intelligent network capability which utilizes the common channel signaling network to query a database to secure network routing instructions before completion of a call. This database contains the Location Routing Number (LRN) that identifies the switch of the Local Service Provider (LSP) that serves a customer with a ported DN. The LRN is used to direct the call to the correct network switching element for completion to the end user customer. Where more than one network is involved in completing the call, the network prior to the termination (i.e., the N-1 Network) is normally responsible for querying an SPNP database to secure the LRN which is then used in routing the call.

Where the N-1 carrier does not perform a database query, and forwards a call to a switch in the Telephone Company's network for an NXX-designated as number portable code in the National Exchange Carrier Association Inc. Tariff FCC. No. 4, the Telephone Company will perform a query for the N-1 carrier and bill that N-1 carrier an SPNP Query charge, as per the tariff.

When the Telephone Company performs a query on behalf of the N-1 carrier, the Telephone Company's end office or access tandem switch will suspend call processing, formulate and launch a query via the common channel signaling network to an SPNP database to obtain information necessary to route calls to numbers in portable NXX codes. When the necessary routing information has been returned from the SPNP database to the switch originating the query, call processing is resumed and the call is routed to the correct network switching element for completion to the called party.

When a Telephone Company tandem switch performs the query on behalf of the N-1 carrier, an SPNP Query-Tandem charge is applied whenever the call is to an NXX from which a DN has been ported.

When a Telephone Company end office switch performs the query on behalf of the N-1 carrier, an SPNP Query-End Office charge will apply when the called DN has ported out of the Telephone Company switch.

If you have any questions, please contact your account representative.