9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.1 Description

Rates and charges for services explained herein are contained in Part M Section 1.9.

9.1.1	General	
A.	This tariff applies to MTS furnished or made available by the Telephone Company over facilities, wholly within or partly within and partly without the State of Rhode Island, between two or more points within the State of Rhode Island where the respective rate centers of such points are also located in said state.	
B.	MTS is that of furnishing facilities for telecommunication between local service areas in accordance with the regulations and system of charges specified herein.	
C.	Service is available to and from customers of a miscellaneous common carrier with which arrangements have been made for the interchange of telecommunication traffic and is furnished through interconnecting equipment and connecting channels provided by the Telephone Company. The rates between the applicable wire telephone rate center and the rate center of the miscellaneous common carrier are the rates specified in this tariff for MTS. The rate center of the miscellaneous common carrier is the wire telephone rate center of the Telephone Company serving exchange. An additional charge that the miscellaneous common carrier bills to and collects from its customer is applicable to the remainder of the haul as specified in the tariffs of the miscellaneous common carrier.	
D.	The following classes of calls are offered on both a customer dialed and operator dialed basis.	(T)(D)
1.	Station-to-Station	
2.		(D)
3.		(D)(T)
4.	Coin Paid Station-to-Station	(T)

9.1.2	Customer Dialed Classes of Service
A.	**Station-to-Station Service** rates apply to a call that is dialed and completed by a customer without the assistance of an operator.
1.	The services of an operator are not used to complete such a call or to furnish any information or assistance relating to billing or charges for such a call, except for the following circumstances.
a.	An operator will place a call for a calling party who identifies himself as being handicapped and unable to dial the call because of the handicap.
b.	An operator will record the originating telephone number where automatic recording equipment is not available to record the number.

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.1 Description

9.1.2	Customer Dialed Classes of Service	
A.1.	(Continued)	
c.	An operator will re-establish a call that was interrupted after the called number was reached.	
d.	An operator will reach the called telephone number where facilities are not available for customer dial completion.	
2.	**IntraMunicipality Toll Calls Service—** With municipal calling service, customer dialed station-to-station service is allowed within a municipality without the application of MTS charges, except for calls originated by or terminating to a foreign exchange or foreign zone line which is supplied dial tone from a central office other than that which serves the address at which the foreign exchange or foreign zone line service is located.	
B.		(D) (D)
C.		(T)(D)
1.		
2.		(D)
D.	**Coin Paid Station-to-Station Service** rates apply to a station-to-station call dialed by the customer where the money for the initial period is deposited in a PASL payphone.	(T)
E.		(T)(D) (D)

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.1 Description

9.1.3	Operator Dialed Classes of Service	
A.	**Station-to-Station Service** rates apply to a station-to-station call when the operator dials the called telephone number, other than as excepted in Section 9.1.2A, or to calls which involve a request for information relating to the billing or charges for a call.	
B.		(T)(D) (D)
C.		(T)(D)
1.		
2.		
3.		(D)
D.	**Coin Paid Station-to-Station Service** rates apply to a station-to-station call which is dialed by the operator where the money for the initial period is deposited in a PASL payphone coin box. However, this class of service does not apply for the operator services specified in Section 9.1.2A when used with customer dialed coin paid station-to-station service.	(T)

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.2 Responsibility of the Telephone Company

9.2.1	Collection of Charges	
A.		(D)
B.		(D)
1.	Against or collected from the called telephone (i.e., charges may be reversed) if the charges are accepted at the called telephone.	
2.		
3.		(D) (D)
C.		(D)

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.3 Responsibility of the Customer

9.3.1	Customer Equipment
A.	Customer provided terminal equipment and multi-line terminating systems may be used in connection with MTS subject to the regulations specified in Section 4.

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.4 Regulations

9.4.1	Timing of Messages
A.	Except as specified herein, on all station-to-station calls, chargeable time begins when the connection is established between the calling telephone and the called telephone, miscellaneous common carrier mobile radio system, or PBX system.
B.	On person-to-person calls, chargeable time begins when connection is established between the calling person and the particular person or stations specified or an agreed alternative.
C.	When exchange telephone service used for MTS is directly connected (i.e., not connected through a multi-line terminating system or terminal equipment) at a customer's premises to a communications system not subject to Part 68 of the FCCs rules and regulations, chargeable time for all classes of service begins when a call from the telecommunications network terminates in or passes through the first multi-line terminating system or terminal equipment on that communications system not subject to Part 68. It is the customer's responsibility to furnish appropriate answer supervision to the point of connection with the exchange telecommunications service so that chargeable time may begin.
D.	Chargeable time ends when the calling telephone hangs up thereby releasing the network connection. If the called telephone hangs up but the calling party does not, chargeable time ends when the network connection is released, either by automatic timing equipment in the telecommunications network or by an operator.

9.4.2	Time Periods
A.	**Residence Service Lines—** The date, day, and time when the initial connection occurs and when each additional minute begins determine the application of rates. When any rate period is discounted the discount applies to the charge for the initial minute occurring within the discount period and to all additional minutes occurring within each discount rate period. Discounts do not apply to incremental charges.
1.	**Day Rates (Full Rates)** apply Monday through Friday from 8AM to, but not including 5PM.
2.	**Evening Rates (Discounted)** apply Monday through Friday from 5PM to, but not including 11PM.
a.	On Christmas Day (December 25), New Year's Day (January 1), Independence Day (July 4), Thanksgiving Day (the fourth Thursday in November), and Labor Day, the holiday rate is the evening rate, unless a lower rate would normally apply.
3.	**Night and Weekend Rates (Discounted)** apply Monday through Thursday from 11PM to, but not including 8AM of the following day, and from 11PM to, but not including 8AM of the following day, and from 11PM Fridays to, but not including 8AM Mondays.

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.4 Regulations

9.4.2	Time Periods
A.	(Continued)
4.	The evening rate period and the night and weekend rate period are computed separately and the results then totaled. The evening rate (discount) and night and weekend rate (discount) do not apply to any incremental charge which is added to the resulting total. When application of the rate (discount) results in a fractional charge, the amount will be rounded down to the lower cent.
B.	(D)
1.	
2.	
a.	
b.	
C.	(D)

9.4.3	Determination of Rate Airline Miles
A.	MTS rates between points (cities, towns, or localities) are based on the airline distance between rate centers. In general, each point is designated as a rate center; certain small towns or localities are assigned adjacent rate centers with which they are closely associated for communication purposes or by community of interest.

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.4 Regulations

9.4.3	Determination of Rate Airline Miles
B.	For the purpose of determining rate distances, a vertical V and horizontal H coordinate system is used. The V&H system consists of a series of coordinates which represents a theoretical grid of vertical and horizontal lines covering the State of Rhode Island. The spacing between these lines is about 1,670 feet, and an intersection of any two grid lines represents the center of an area approximately 1/10 of a square mile designated by two coordinates.
1.	The location of a rate center expressed in latitude and longitude is converted mathematically to its grid location, that is, V&H coordinates (vertical and horizontal). These coordinates permit calculation of the distance between any two such rate centers.
C.	An alphabetical list of each exchange in the State of Rhode Island with its corresponding V&H coordinates is included in NECA Tariff FCC No. 4, and is incorporated herein by reference.

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.5 Rates and Charges

9.5.1	Description	
A.	**Residence Service Initial Period Rates**	
1.	For calls billed to residence service lines, the initial period rates for all classes of service are for connections of one minute or any fraction thereof.	
a.	For calls billed to residence service lines, the charge for the initial period is the initial period rate applicable for the time period in which the message connect time occurs.	
B.	**Residence Service Incremental Charges—** An incremental charge applies in addition to the appropriate initial period rate or per message charge for the customer dialed and operator dialed calls listed below. When more than one class of service is involved only the higher incremental charge is applicable.	
1.	**Customer Dialed—** Coin paid station-to-station.	(D)
2.	**Operator Dialed—** Station-to-station, and coin paid station-to-station.	(D)
C.	**Residence Service Overtime Rates**	
1.	The overtime rates for all classes of residence service are for each additional minute or fraction thereof that the telephone connection continues beyond the initial period. Overtime rates are the same for all classes of residence service and are governed by the rate period in which each additional minute begins.	
D.	**Sent-Paid Coin—** Customer dialed station-to-station sent paid calls originating from PASL payphones in the evening or night and weekend periods will be calculated by discounting the appropriate day rate by 35% and 60% respectively.	(S)(T)
1.	For sent-paid coin calls the initial period rates are for connections of one minute or any fraction thereof.	
a.	The charge for the initial period is the initial period rate applicable for the time period in which the message connect time occurs.	
E.	**Adjustments** when appropriate are applied by deducting minutes or seconds as applicable from the call termination time.	(S)(T)

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.5 Rates and Charges

9.5.1	Description	
H.		(D) (D)

9.5.2	Application
A.	Customer dialed rates apply when the calling party actually dials the called party's telephone number.
B.	Operator dialed rates apply when the calling party dials zero for operator and the operator dials the called party's telephone number.

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)
9.6 Message Telecommunications Service for Disabled Persons

9.6.1	Description
A.	Reduced MTS charges apply if a residence service customer, or a member of a residence service customer's household, is certified as having a disability that requires the use of a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) for communicating over the telecommunications network.
1.	TDD is a generic term describing keyboard devices specifically designed or modified for the purpose of assisting deaf people to communicate with others over the telecommunications network. These include such devices as teleprinters or other keyboard units that use Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) or Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) to display messages. These devices may also be used by persons with other disabilities who require a keyboard and visual display to communicate with others over the telecommunications network.
B.	Certification of the disability requires the completion of an application form certified by a licensed physician, speech pathologist, audiologist, or appropriate state of federal agency.
1.	An application must be renewed every two years. A renewal application does not require recertification.

9.6.2	Application of Rates and Charges	
A.	Reduced charges apply only to customer dialed station-to-station messages.	
1.	The night and weekend rates (discounted) apply to dial station-to-station messages in all time periods.	
2.	Reduced charges apply only to messages originated from one line designated as the customer's residence service.	(D)
		(D)

9. Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)

9.8 Reserved for Future Use (T)

9.8.1	Reserved for Future Use	(T)
A.		(D)
B.		(D)

9.8.2	Reserved for Future Use	(T)
A.		(D)
B.		
C.		
D.		(D)

(D)