

ISSUED DATE: November 15, 2000
COVISTA, INC.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 29, 2001
ORIGINAL SHEET 1
LA PSC TARIFF NO. 1

TITLE SHEET

LOUISIANA TELECOMMUNICATIONS TARIFF

This tariff contains the descriptions, regulations, and rates applicable to the furnishing of service or facilities for Telecommunications Services furnished by Covista, Inc.

("Covista") with principal offices at 721 Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402, telephone number (423) 648-9500. This tariff applies for services furnished within the State of Louisiana. This tariff is on file with the Louisiana Public Service Commission, and copies may be inspected, during normal business hours, at the company's principal place of business. This tariff is governed and interpreted according to the laws of the State of Louisiana.

ISSUED BY: A. John Leach, Jr., President & CEO
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Chattanooga, TN 37402

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CONCURRING, CONNECTING OR
OTHER PARTICIPATING CARRIERS

1. Concurring Carriers - None
2. Connecting Carriers - None
3. Other Participating Carriers - None

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CHECK SHEET

Sheets 1 through 27 inclusive of this tariff are effective as of the date shown at the bottom of the respective sheet(s). Original and revised sheets as named below 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</u>
1	Original
2	Original
3	Original
4	Original
5	Original
6	Original
7	Original
8	Original
9	Original
10	Original
11	Original
12	Original
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27	Original

* New or Revised Sheet

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TARIFF FORMAT

A. Sheet Numbering: Sheet numbers appear in the upper right corner of the page. Sheets are numbered sequentially. However, new sheets are occasionally added to the tariff. When a new sheet is added between sheets already in effect, a decimal is added. For example, a new sheet added between pages 11 and 12 would be page 11.1.

B. Sheet Revision Numbers: Revision numbers also appear in the upper right corner of each sheet where applicable. These numbers are used to indicate the most current page version on file with the Commission. For example, 4th Revised Sheet 13 cancels 3rd Revised Sheet 13. Consult the Check Sheet for the sheets currently in effect.

C. Paragraph Numbering Sequence: There are nine levels of paragraph coding. Each level of coding is subservient to its next higher level:

2.
2.1
2.1.1
2.1.1.A
2.1.1.A.1
2.1.1.A.1.(a)
2.1.1.A.1.(a).I
2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.(i)
2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.(i).(1)

D. Check Sheets: When a tariff filing is made with the Commission, an updated Check Sheet accompanies the tariff filing. The Check Sheet lists the sheets contained in the tariff, with a cross reference to the current Revision Number. When new sheets are added, the Check Sheet is changed to reflect the revision. All revisions made in a given filing are designated by an asterisk (*). There will be no other symbols used on this sheet if these are the only changes made to it (i.e., the format, etc. remains the same, just revised revision levels on some sheets). The tariff user should refer to the latest Check Sheet to find out if a particular sheet is the most current on Commission file.

SYMBOLS

The following are the only symbols used for the purposes indicated below:

- (C) to signify change in regulation
- (D) to signify a deletion
- (I) to signify a rate increase
- (L) to signify material relocated in the tariff
- (N) to signify a new rate or regulation
- (R) to signify a rate reduction
- (T) to signify a change in text, but no change in rate or regulation

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SECTION 1 - TECHNICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Access Line - An arrangement from a local exchange telephone company or other common carrier, using either dedicated or switched access, which connects a Customer's location to Covista's location or switching center.

Authorization Code - A numerical code, one or more of which may be assigned to a Customer, to enable Covista to identify the origin of the Customer so it may rate and bill the call. Automatic number identification (ANI) is used as the authorization code wherever possible.

Commission - Used throughout this tariff to mean the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

Customer - The person, firm, corporation or other legal entity which orders the services and is responsible for the payment of charges and for compliance with the Company's tariff regulations.

Company or Covista - Used throughout this tariff to mean Covista, Inc., a New Jersey corporation.

Holiday - New Year's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Holidays shall be billed at the evening rate from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. After 11 p.m., the lower night rate shall go into effect.

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Telecommunications - The transmission of voice communications or, subject to the transmission capabilities of the services, the transmission of data, facsimile, signaling, metering, or other similar communications.

Underlying Carrier - The telecommunications carrier whose network facilities provide the technical capability and capacity necessary for the transmission and reception of Customer telecommunications traffic.

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SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS

2.1 Undertaking of the Company

This tariff contains the regulations and rates applicable to intrastate resale telecommunications services provided by Covista for telecommunications between points within the State of Louisiana. Resale services are furnished subject to the availability of facilities and subject to the terms and conditions of this tariff in compliance with limitations set forth in the Commission's rules. The Company's services are provided on a statewide basis and are not intended to be limited geographically. The Company offers service to all those who desire to purchase service from the Company consistent with all of the provisions of this tariff. Customers interested in the Company's services shall file a service application with the Company which fully identifies the Customer, the services requested and other information requested by the Company. The Company reserves the right to examine the credit record and check the references of all applicants and Customers prior to accepting the service order. The service application shall not in itself obligate the Company to provide services or to continue to provide service if a later check of applicant's credit record is, in the opinion of the Company, contrary to the best interest of the Company. The Company may act as the Customer's agent for ordering access connection facilities provided by other carriers or entities when authorized by the Customer, to allow connection of a Customer's location to a service provided by the Company. The Customer shall be responsible for all charges due for such service arrangement. The Company does not own any switching, transmission or other physical facilities in Louisiana.

- 2.1.1 The services provided by Covista are not part of a joint undertaking with any other entity providing telecommunications channels, facilities, or services, but may involve the resale of the Message Toll Services (MTS) and Wide Area Telecommunications Services (WATS) of underlying common carriers subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
- 2.1.2 The rates and regulations contained in this tariff apply only to the resale services furnished by Covista and do not apply, unless otherwise specified, to the lines, facilities, or services provided by a local exchange telephone company or other common carriers for use in accessing the services of Covista.
- 2.1.3 The Company reserves the right to limit the length of communications, to discontinue furnishing services, or limit the use of service necessitated by conditions beyond its control, including, without limitation: lack of satellite or other transmission medium capacity; the revision, alteration or repricing of the Underlying Carrier's tariffed offerings; or when the use of service becomes or is in violation of the law or the provisions of this tariff.

2.2 Use of Services

- 2.2.1 Covista's services may be used for any lawful purpose consistent with the transmission and switching parameters of the telecommunications facilities utilized in the provision of services, subject to any limitations set forth in this Section 2.2.
- 2.2.2 The use of Covista's services to make calls which might reasonably be expected to frighten, abuse, torment, or harass another or in such a way as to unreasonably interfere with use by others is prohibited.

- 2.2.3 The use of Covista's services without payment for service or attempting to avoid payment for service by fraudulent means or devices, schemes, false or invalid numbers, or false calling or credit cards is prohibited.
- 2.2.4 Covista's services are available for use twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.
- 2.2.5 Covista does not transmit messages, but the services may be used for that purpose.
- 2.2.6 Covista's services may be denied for nonpayment of charges or for other violations of this tariff.
- 2.2.7 Customers shall not use the service provided under this tariff for any unlawful purpose.
- 2.2.8 The Customer is responsible for notifying the Company immediately of any unauthorized use of services.

2.3 Liability of the Company

- 2.3.1 The Company shall not be liable for any claim, loss, expense or damage for any interruption, delay, error, omission, or defect in any service, facility or transmission provided under this tariff, if caused by the Underlying Carrier, an act of God, fire, war, civil disturbance, act of government, or due to any other causes beyond the Company's control.
- 2.3.2 The Company shall not be liable for, and shall be fully indemnified and held harmless by the Customer against any claim, loss, expense, or damage for defamation, libel, slander, invasion, infringement of copyright or patent, unauthorized use of any trademark, trade name or service mark, proprietary or creative right, or any other injury to any person, property or entity arising out of the material, data or information transmitted.

- 2.3.3 No agent or employee of any other carrier or entity shall be deemed to be an agent or employee of the Company.
- 2.3.4 The Company's liability for damages, resulting in whole or in part from or arising in connection with the furnishing of service under this tariff, including but not limited to mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, errors, or other defects or misrepresentations shall not exceed an amount equal to the charges provided for under this tariff for the long distance call for the period during which the call was affected. No other liability in any event shall attach to the Company.
- 2.3.5 The Company shall not be liable for and shall be indemnified and saved harmless by any Customer or by any other entity from any and all loss, claims, demands, suits, or other action or any liability whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by any Customer or any other entity for any personal injury to, or death of, any person or persons, and for any loss, damage, defacement or destruction of the premises of any Customer or any other entity or any other property whether owned or controlled by the Customer or others.
- 2.3.6 The Company shall not be liable for any indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages under this tariff including, but not limited to, loss of revenue or profits, for any reason whatsoever, including the breakdown of facilities associated with the service, or for any mistakes, omissions, delays, errors, or defects in transmission occurring during the course of furnishing service.

2.3.7 The remedies set forth herein are exclusive and in lieu of all other warranties and remedies, whether express, implied, or statutory, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

2.4 Responsibilities of the Customer

2.4.1 The Customer is responsible for placing any necessary orders and complying with tariff regulations. The Customer is also responsible for the payment of charges for services provided under this tariff.

2.4.2 The Customer is responsible for charges incurred for special construction and/or special facilities which the Customer requests and which are ordered by Covista on the Customer's behalf.

2.4.3 If required for the provision of Covista's services, the Customer must provide any equipment space, supporting structure, conduit and electrical power without charge to Covista.

2.4.4 The Customer is responsible for arranging access to its premises at times mutually agreeable to Covista and the Customer when required for Covista personnel to install, repair, maintain, program, inspect or remove equipment associated with the provision of Covista's services.

2.4.5 The Customer shall cause the temperature and relative humidity in the equipment space provided by Customer for the installation of Covista's equipment to be maintained within the range normally provided for the operation of microcomputers.

- 2.4.6 The Customer shall ensure that the equipment and/or system is properly interfaced with Covista's facilities or services, that the signals emitted into Covista's network are of the proper mode, bandwidth, power and signal level for the intended use of the subscriber and in compliance with criteria set forth in this tariff, and that the signals do not damage equipment, injure personnel, or degrade service to other Customers. If the Federal Communications Commission or some other appropriate certifying body certifies terminal equipment as being technically acceptable for direct electrical connection with interstate communications service, Covista will permit such equipment to be connected with its channels without the use of protective interface devices. If the Customer fails to maintain the equipment and/or the system properly, with resulting imminent harm to Covista equipment, personnel or the quality of service to other Customers, Covista may, upon written notice, require the use of protective equipment at the Customer's expense. If this fails to produce satisfactory quality and safety, Covista may, upon written notice, terminate the Customer's service.
- 2.4.7 The Customer must pay Covista for replacement or repair of damage to the equipment or facilities of Covista caused by negligence or willful act of the Customer or others, by improper use of the services, or by use of equipment provided by Customer or others.
- 2.4.8 The Customer must pay for the loss through theft of any Covista equipment installed at Customer's premises.
- 2.4.9 If Covista installs equipment at Customer's premises, the Customer shall be responsible for payment of any applicable installation charge.

2.4.10 The Customer must use the services offered in this tariff in a manner consistent with the terms of this tariff and the policies and regulations of all state, federal and local authorities having jurisdiction over the service.

2.5 Cancellation or Interruption of Services

2.5.1 Without incurring liability, upon five (5) working days' (defined as any day on which the company's business office is open and the U.S. Mail is delivered) written notice to the Customer, Covista may immediately discontinue services to a Customer or may withhold the provision of ordered or contracted services:

2.5.1.A For nonpayment of any sum due Covista for more than thirty (30) days after issuance of the bill for the amount due,

2.5.1.B For violation of any of the provisions of this tariff,

2.5.1.C For violation of any law, rule, regulation, policy of any governing authority having jurisdiction over Covista's services, or

2.5.1.D By reason of any order or decision of a court, public service commission or federal regulatory body or other governing authority prohibiting Covista from furnishing its services.

- 2.5.2 Without incurring liability, Covista may interrupt the provision of services at any time in order to perform tests and inspections to assure compliance with tariff regulations and the proper installation and operation of Customer and Covista's equipment and facilities and may continue such interruption until items of noncompliance or improper equipment operation are rectified.
- 2.5.3 Service may be discontinued by Covista without notice to the Customer, by blocking traffic to certain countries, cities or NXX exchanges, or by blocking calls using certain Customer authorization codes, when Covista deems it necessary to take such action to prevent unlawful use of its service. Covista will restore service as soon as it can be provided without undue risk, and will, upon request by the Customer affected, assign a new authorization code to replace the one that has been deactivated. Unless fraud is suspected, Covista cannot unilaterally place a block on a Customer's service when a particular amount of charges have been incurred and the Customer has not been presented the opportunity and a reasonable amount of time to pay or make other payment arrangements to pay the charges. If a block is placed on a Customer's service due to suspected fraud, the Customer shall be informed in writing within 2 business days of the block placed on service and the reason for the block.
- 2.5.4 The Customer may terminate service upon 30 days written notice for the Company's standard month to month contract. Customer will be liable for all usage on any Covista service offerings until the Customer actually leaves the service. Customers will continue to have Covista usage until the Customer notifies its local exchange carrier and changes its long distance carrier. Until the Customer so notifies its local exchange carrier, it shall continue to generate and be responsible for long distance usage.

2.6 Credit Allowance

- 2.6.1 Credit allowance for the interruption of service which is not due to the Company's testing or adjusting, negligence of the Customer, or to the failure of channels or equipment provided by the Customer, are subject to the general liability provisions set forth in 2.3 herein. It shall be the obligation of the Customer to notify the Company immediately of any interruption in service for which a credit allowance is desired. Before giving such notice, the Customer shall ascertain that the trouble is not being caused by any action or omission by the Customer within his control, or is not in wiring or equipment, if any, furnished by the Customer and connected to the Company's facilities.
- 2.6.2 No credit is allowed in the event that service must be interrupted in order to provide routine service quality or related investigations.
- 2.6.3 Credit for failure of service shall be allowed only when such failure is caused by or occurs due to causes within the control of the Company or in the event that the Company is entitled to a credit for the failure of the facilities of the Company's Underlying Carrier used to furnish service.
- 2.6.4 Credit for interruption shall commence after the Customer notifies the Company of the interruption or when the Company becomes aware thereof, and ceases when service has been restored.
- 2.6.5 For purposes of credit computation, every month shall be considered to have 720 hours.

2.6.6 No credit shall be allowed for an interruption of a continuous duration of less than two hours.

2.6.7 The Customer shall be credited for an interruption of two hours or more at the rate of 1/720th of the monthly charge for the facilities affected for each hour or major fraction thereof that the interruption continues.

Credit Formula:

$$\text{Credit} = \frac{A}{720} \times B$$

"A" - outage time in hours

"B" - monthly charge for affected activity

2.7 Restoration of Service

The use and restoration of service shall be in accordance with the priority system specified in part 64, Subpart D of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

2.8 Deposit

The Company does not require deposits.

2.9 Advance Payments

The Company does not require advance payments.

2.10 Payment and Billing

- 2.10.1 Service is provided and billed on a billing cycle basis, beginning on the date that service becomes effective. Billing is payable upon receipt. A one-time late fee will be assessed 30 days after rendition of bills.
- 2.10.2 The security of the Customer's Authorization Codes, subscribed exchange lines, and direct connect facilities is the responsibility of the Customer. All calls placed using direct connect facilities, subscribed exchange lines, or Authorization Codes will be billed to and must be paid by the Customer. Recurring charges and non-recurring charges are billed in advance. Charges based on actual usage during a month and any accrued interest will be billed monthly in arrears.
- 2.10.3 Reserved for Future Use.

2.11 Collection Costs

In the event Company is required to initiate legal proceedings to collect any amounts due to Company for regulated or non-regulated services, equipment or facilities, or to enforce any judgment obtained against a Customer, or for the enforcement of any other provision of this tariff or applicable law, Customer shall, in addition to all amounts due, be liable to Company for all reasonable costs incurred by Company in such proceedings and enforcement actions, including reasonable attorneys' fees, collection agency fees or payments, and court costs. In any such proceeding, the amount of collection costs, including attorneys' fees, due to the Company, will be determined by the court.

2.12 Taxes

All federal, state and local taxes, assessments, surcharges, or fees, including sales taxes, use taxes, gross receipts taxes, and municipal utilities taxes, are billed as separate line items and are not included in the rates quoted herein.

2.13 Late Charge

A one-time late fee of 1.5% or the amount otherwise authorized by law, whichever is lower, will be charged on any past due balances which may be imposed only after 20 days elapse from the billing date.

2.14 Returned Check Charge

A fee of \$15.00 will be charged whenever a check or draft presented for payment for service is not accepted by the institution on which it is written.

SECTION 3 - DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

3.1 Computation of Charges

3.1.1 The total charge for each completed call may be a variable measured charge dependent on the duration, distance and time of day of the call. The total charge for each completed call may also be dependent only on the duration of the call, i.e. a statewide flat rate per minute charge. The variable measured charge is specified as a rate per minute which is applied to each minute. All calls are measured in six second increments with a thirty second minimum per call. All Travel Card calls are measured in one minute increments. All calls are rounded up to the next whole increment.

3.1.2 Where mileage bands appear in a rate table, rates for all calls are based upon the airline distance between the originating and terminating points of the call, as determined by the vertical and horizontal coordinates associated with the exchange (the area code and three digit central office code) associated with the originating and terminating telephone numbers. If the Customer obtains access to the Company's network by a dedicated access circuit, that circuit will be assigned an exchange for rating purposes based upon the Customer's main telephone number at the location where the dedicated access circuit terminates. The vertical and horizontal (V & H) coordinates for each exchange and the airline distance between them will be determined according to industry standards.

3.1.3 Timing begins when the called station is answered and two way communication is possible, as determined by standard industry methods generally in use for ascertaining answer, including hardware answer supervision in which the local telephone company sends a signal to the switch or the software utilizing audio tone detection. Recognition of answer supervision is the responsibility of the Underlying Carrier. Timing for each call ends when either party hangs up. Covista will not bill for uncompleted calls.

3.2 Customer Complaints and/or Billing Disputes

Customer inquiries or complaints regarding service or accounting may be made in writing or by telephone to the Company at:

721 Broad Street, 2nd Floor
Chattanooga, TN 37402
(800) 805-1000

Any objection to billed charges should be reported promptly to Covista. Adjustments to Customers' bills shall be made to the extent that records are available and/or circumstances exist which reasonably indicate that such charges are not in accordance with approved rates or that an adjustment may otherwise be appropriate. Where overbilling of a subscriber occurs, due either to Company or subscriber error, no liability exists which will require the Company to pay any interest, dividend or other compensation on the amount overbilled.

All Customer complaints and inquiries regarding service or billing are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission which may be contacted at the following address and telephone number:

Louisiana Public Service Commission
Utilities Division
One American Place, Suite 1630
Baton Rouge, LA 70825
800-262-0793

If a Customer accumulates more than One Dollar of undisputed delinquent Covista 800 Service charges, the Covista Resp. Org. reserves the right not to honor that Customer's request for a Resp. Org. change until such undisputed charges are paid in full.

3.3 Level of Service

A Customer can expect end to end network availability of not less than 99% at all times for all services.

3.4 Billing Entity Conditions

When billing functions on behalf of Covista or its intermediary are performed by local exchange telephone companies or others, the payment of charge conditions and regulations of such companies and any regulations imposed upon these companies by regulatory bodies having jurisdiction apply. Covista's name and toll-free telephone number will appear on the Customer's bill.

3.5 Service Offerings

3.5.1 1+ Dialing

The customer utilizes "1+" dialing, or "101XXXX" dialing followed by "1 + ten digits" for interLATA calls, or dials "101XXXX" followed by "1 + 7 digits" or "1 + 10 digits" for intraLATA calls.

3.5.2 Travel Cards

The Customer utilizes an 11 digit "toll-free" access number established by the Company to access a terminal. Upon receiving a voice prompt, the Customer uses push button dialing to enter an identification code assigned by the Company, and the ten digit number of the called party.

3.5.3 800 Service (Toll-Free)

This service is inbound calling only where an 800, 888 or other toll-free prefix number rings into a Customer's premise routed to a specific telephone number or terminated over a dedicated facility.

3.5.4 Directory Assistance.

Access to long distance directory assistance is obtained by dialing 1 + 555-1212 for listings within the originating area code and 1 + (area code) + 555-1212 for other listings. When more than one number is requested in a single call, a charge will apply for each number requested. A charge will be applicable for each number requested, whether or not the number is listed or published.

3.5.5 Free Blocking

The Company will provide free blocking of 900, 976, and 700 informational numbers to any Customer.

3.5.6 Specialized Pricing Arrangements.

Customized service packages and competitive pricing packages at negotiated rates may be furnished on a case-by-case basis in response to requests by Customers to the Company for proposals or for competitive bids. Service offered under this tariff provision will be provided to Customers pursuant to contract. Unless otherwise specified, the regulations for such arrangements are in addition to the applicable regulations and prices in other sections of the tariff. Specialized rates or charges will be made available to similarly situated Customers on a non-discriminatory basis.

3.5.7 Emergency Call Handling Procedures

Emergency "911" calls are not routed to company, but are completed through the local network at no charge.

3.5.8 Promotional Offerings

The Company may, from time to time, make promotional offerings to enhance the marketing of its services. These offerings may be limited to certain dates, times and locations. The Company will notify the Commission of such offerings as required by Commission rules and regulations.

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SECTION 4 - RATES

4.1 1+ Dialing

\$0.129 per minute

4.2 Travel Cards

\$0.25 per minute

4.3 800 Service (Toll Free)

\$0.134 per minute

A monthly service charge of \$20 will apply per number.

4.4 Directory Assistance

\$.65

4.5 Returned Check Charge

\$15.00

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4.6 Rate Periods

	Monday - Friday	Sat.	Sun.
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.*	Daytime Rate Period		
5 p.m. to 11 p.m.*	Evening Rate Period		Evening Rate Period
11 p.m. to 8 a.m.*	Night/Weekend Rate Period		

* To, but not including
When a message spans more than one rate period, total charges for the minutes in each rate period are calculated and the results for each rate period are totaled to obtain the total message charge. If the calculation results in a fractional charge, the amount will be rounded down to the lower cent.

4.7 Payphone Dial Around Surcharge

A dial around surcharge of \$.35 per call will be added to any completed INTRASTATE toll access code and subscriber 800/888 type calls placed from a public or semi-public payphone.

4.8 Universal Service Fund Assessment & Presubscribed Interexchange Carrier Charge

The Customer will be assessed a monthly federal Universal Service Fund Contribution charge on all telecommunications services, which in no event shall be less than the prevailing contribution percentage rate charged the Company on intrastate traffic by the Universal Service Administrative Company (or any successor). A Presubscribed Interexchange Carrier Charge ("PICC") applies on a monthly basis to all Customer monthly bills at the prevailing rate.