

Basic Settlements and NECA Overview - Part 2

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Agenda





Concept of pooling Our core responsibilities





Concept of pooling Pooling

- The NECA pool is a revenue distribution mechanism designed to facilitate the recovery of costs associated with providing regulated interstate access services
- Each participating exchange carrier receives a settlement for its study area
 - Settlement is the share of total pool revenue available to cover the EC's interstate regulated revenue requirement
- Settlements are calculated monthly
 - Each month is separate from every other month and all pool funds are distributed monthly



Concept of pooling Pool participation

- EC responsibilities
 - Bill NECA tariff rates to access customers and end users
 - Bill what is ordered
 - Bill based on tariff requirements and rates
 - Report timely data/adjustments to NECA
 - Interstate earned revenue
 - Interstate demand items
 - Interstate costs, taxes and expenses (cost companies only)



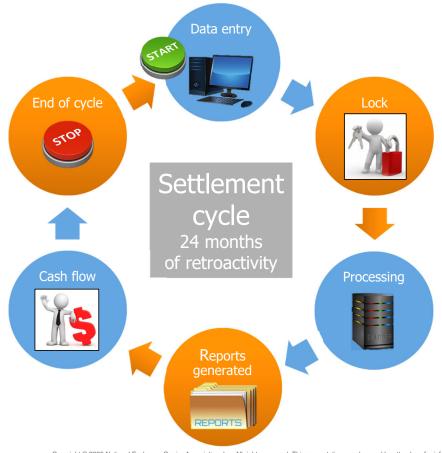


Concept of pooling Pool participation

- Our responsibilities
 - Develop and maintain nationwide interstate tariff rates
 - Rate bands implemented to more closely match individual study area costs with assigned tariff rates
 - Calculate settlements for 25 months for every pool participant based on their interstate costs
 - Manage monthly cash flow
 - Ensure integrity of pooling data for fairness



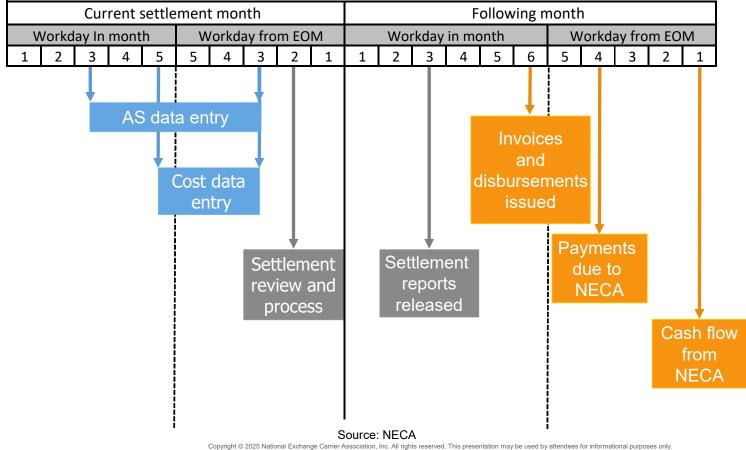
Mechanics of pool reporting Settlement cycle





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Mechanics of pool reporting Settlement cycle





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Mechanics of pool reporting Pooling terminology

Data entry types	Data type	When input	Requirements
Data month estimate	Whole number representing the best estimate for the month	Current month	DME requires each line value be filled with estimated revenue and demand items. If EC is reporting actual data, submitter must indicate on EC1050 or AS1000
Default model	Default data	Current month	NECA created default
Data month adjustment	Difference between previously reported data and the most recent data	Input data to any valid month within the 24-month window If DME does not reflect actual data, must true up DME demand and access revenue data within three months	DMAs are required to be submitted for demand and access revenue data. Items include: Access lines Interstate AMOU Intrastate AMOU EU revenue TS switched revenue ARC revenue Intrastate terminating revenue

Source: NECA



Mechanics of pool reporting Pooling terminology

- Prior period net adjustment allows exchange carriers to revise their data for the preceding 24 months
 - PPNA changes are made to reflect more current data
 - The settlement system uses PPNAs when calculating monthly pool amounts, residue ratios and changes in net balance



Mechanics of pool reporting Pooling terminology

Revenue

- Earned dollars billed to IC and end user
- Settlement
 - EC's share of pooled revenues
 - Cost companies' settlements are based on individual cost studies while average schedule companies' settlements are based on average schedule formulas
- Net balance
 - Difference between the settlement and the revenue held by the EC

Settlement – revenues = net balance



Mechanics of pool reporting Settlement system reporting

- Enter/retrieve data from NECA settlement system
 - Log in at neca.org
 - From the My Applications menu, select
 Settlements, Statements and Reports*
 - EC capability or authorized consultant
 - Settlement system user manual
 - Contact your NECA region office for assistance
 - EC may request online read-only access

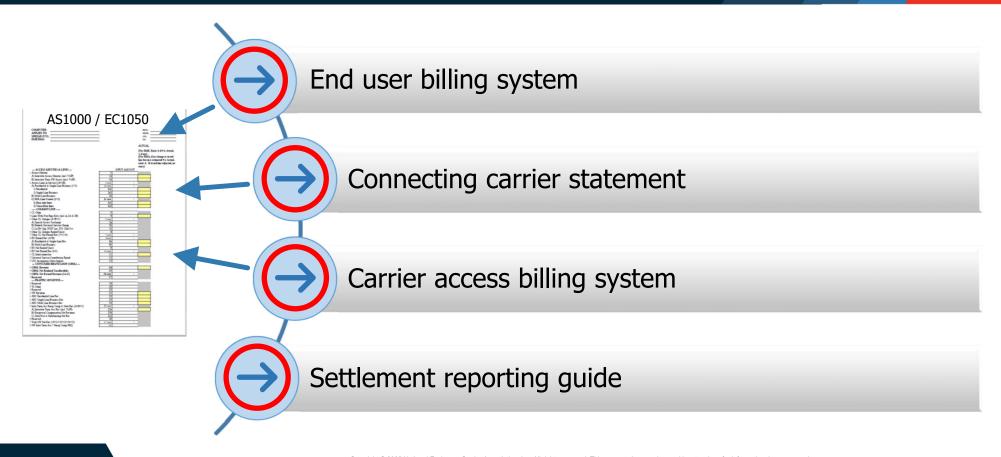


Revenue and demand sources Cost versus average schedule company cost recovery

- Cost companies receive pool revenue (known as settlements) for interstate telecommunication services
 - Based on actual interstate investment, expenses and taxes
- Average schedule companies receive settlements based on a series of statistical formulas filed annually
 - Based on cost companies' separations and allocation factors and average schedule sample accounts and demand
 - Develop formulas using statistical models
 - Compute monthly average schedule settlements based on demand variables and filed and approved formulas



Revenue and demand sources





Revenue and demand sources End user billing system

- Billing system for other charges
 - Subscriber line charges
 - Access recovery charges
 - Includes residential, single line business, multiline business
 - Interstate primary interexchange carrier change charges
 - Federal universal service charges
 - Integrated services digital network line port charges
 - DS1 line port charges



Revenue and demand sources End user billing system

- Billing system for other charges (cont.)
 - Digital subscriber line voice-data service charges
 - Consumer broadband-only lines
 - DSL data-only second mile charges
 - Special access charges not billed via CABS



Revenue and demand sources Connecting company statement

- Dependent on billing arrangements between connecting companies
- Access revenue, UNE and minutes of use may be displayed on a connecting company statement

	January	Febr	uary	March	Apri		May		June	J	luly	А	lugust	Sep	tember	0	tober	No	vember	De	cember	YTD
venue																						
Sales	\$ 50,000	\$ 52	,500	\$ 55,125	\$ 57,8	81 :	\$ 60,775	\$	63,814	\$ 6	57,005	\$	70,355	\$	73,873	\$	77,566	\$	81,445	\$	85,517	\$ 795,85
Sales Returns	-		-	-			-		-		-		-		-		-		-		-	-
Sales Discounts	5,000	5	,250	5,513	5,7	88	6,078		6,381		6,700		7,036		7,387		7,757		8,144		8,552	79,5
<other revenue=""></other>									-				-		-		-		-		-	-
<other revenue=""></other>			-	-			-		-				-		-		-		-		-	-
<other revenue=""></other>							-						-		-			_	-		-	
Net Sales	\$ 55,000	\$ 57	,750	\$ 60,638	\$ 63,6	69 5	66,853	\$	70,195	\$ 7	73,705	\$	77,391	\$	81,260	\$	85,323	\$	89,589	\$	94,069	\$ 875,4
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 20,000	\$ 21	,000	\$ 22,050	\$ 23,1	53 5	\$ 24,310	\$	25,526	\$ 2	26,802	\$	28,142	\$	29,549	\$	31,027	\$	32,578	\$	34,207	318,3
Gross Profit	\$ 35,000	\$ 36	,750	\$ 38,588	\$ 40,5	17 5	\$ 42,543	\$	44,670	\$ 4	16,903	\$	49,249	\$	51,711	\$	54,296	\$	57,011	\$	59,862	\$ 557,0
erating Expenses																						
Salaries & Wages	\$ 7,500	\$ 7	,875	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,6	82 ;	9,116	\$	9,572	\$ 1	10,051	\$	10,553	\$	11,081	\$	11,635	\$	12,217	\$	12,828	\$ 119,3
Depreciation Expenses	500		525	551	5	79	608		638		670		704		739		776		814		855	7,9
Office Expenses	475		499	524	5	50	577		606		637		668		702		737		774		812	7,5
Rent Expense	1,500	1	,575	1,654	1,7	36	1,823		1,914		2,010		2,111		2,216		2,327		2,443		2,566	23,8
Travel Expenses	250		263	276	2	89	304		319		335		352		369		388		407		428	3,9
Maintenance Expenses	100		105	110	1	16	122		128		134		141		148		155		163		171	1,59
Advertising Expenses	200		210	221	2	32	243		255		268		281		295		310		326		342	3,1
<other expense=""></other>			-	-			-		-				-		-		-		-		-	
<other expense=""></other>			-				-		-				-		-		-		-		-	-
<other expense=""></other>													-		-							
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 10,525	\$ 11	,051	\$ 11,604	\$ 12,1	84 5	12,793	\$	13,433	\$ 1	14,105	\$	14,810	\$	15,550	\$	16,328	\$	17,144	\$	18,001	\$ 167,5
Income From Operations	\$ 24,475	\$ 25	,699	\$ 26,984	\$ 28,3	33 5	\$ 29,750	\$	31,237	\$ 3	32,799	\$	34,439	\$	36,161	\$	37,969	\$	39,867	\$	41,861	\$ 389,5
Interest Income (Expense)	(100)	(105)	(110)	(1	16)	(122)		(128)		(134)		(141)		(148)		(155)		(163)		(171)	(1,59
Income Before Income Taxes	\$ 24,375	\$ 25	,594	\$ 26,873	\$ 28,2	17 5	\$ 29,628	\$	31,109	\$ 3	32,665	\$	34,298	\$	36,013	\$	37,814	\$	39,704	\$	41,690	\$ 387,9
Income Tax Expense	750		788	827	8	68	912		957		1,005		1,055		1,108		1,164		1,222		1,283	11,9
Net Income	\$ 23,625	S 24	.806	\$ 26,047	\$ 27.3	49 5	\$ 28,716	9	30.152	5 3	31.660		33,243	<	34,905	s	36,650	5	38,483	s	40,407	\$ 376,04



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Revenue and demand sources Carrier access billing systems

- Mechanized system to produce billing statements for access services
 - Produced for each interexchange carrier/reseller/end user
- By type
 - Switched access section
 - Usage sensitive rate elements
 - Facility access section
 - Flat-rated dedicated services
 - Switched and special access
- Bill formatted with varied designs





Revenue and demand sources Settlement reporting guide – average schedule company

AVERAGE SCHEDULE COMPANY	CL POOL	CBOL TARIFF	TS POOL ¹	DSL TARIFF	REPORT D/O (CBOL) LINES ²	REPORT V/D LINES ³	REPORT ACCESS LINES	REPORT 2ND MILE REVENUE ⁴
MODEL SUPPORT		✓	✓	✓	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
		✓	✓		N	N ³	Υ	N
		✓			N	N³	Υ	N
			✓	✓	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
			✓		N	N³	Υ	N
BDS ELECTORS (TS SW only)			✓		N	N³	Υ	N
CL TARIFF ONLY					N	N³	Υ	N
LEGACY SUPPORT	✓	✓	✓	✓	Υ	Υ	Υ	Y
	✓	✓	✓		Υ	N³	Υ	N
	✓	✓			Υ	N³	Υ	N
			✓	✓	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
			✓	•	N	N³	Υ	N
	✓				Υ	N³	Υ	N

- 1 BDS electors (model support recipients) settle on SW only
- 2 All average schedule pool members **required** to report data-only lines on Line 2C1 if demand exists, regardless of CBOL or DSL participation
- 3 If not in DSL tariff, do not report voice-data lines on Line 2C2; but should be counted as access lines on lines 2A and B
- 4 If applicable (study area has one or more SWCs that do not have ASCP functionality)

Note: All participants must report access minutes

Source: NECA



Revenue and demand sources Settlement reporting guide – cost company

COST COMPANY	CL POOL	CBOL TARIFF	TS POOL ¹	DSL TARIFF	REPORT D/O (CBOL) LINES	REPORT V/D LINES ³	REPORT ACCESS LINES	REPORT 2ND MILE REVENUE ²	REPORT CBOL COSTS ⁴
MODEL SUPPORT	CLFOOL	√ /	FOOL ✓	√ √	Y	Y	N	Y	N N
WODEL SOLL OKT		✓	✓		N	N	N	N	N
		✓			N	N	N	N	N
			✓	✓	Υ	Y	N	Υ	N
			✓		N	N	N	N	N
BDS ELECTORS (TS SW only)			✓		N	N	N	N	N
CL TARIFF ONLY					N	N	N	N	N
LEGACY SUPPORT	✓	✓	✓	✓	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
	✓	✓	✓		Υ	N³	Υ	N	Υ
	✓	✓			Υ	N³	Υ	N	Υ
			✓	✓	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N
			✓	•	N	N³	Υ	N	N
	✓				N	N³	Υ	N	N

- 1 BDS electors (model support recipients) settle on SW only
- 2 If applicable (study area has one or more SWCs that do not have ASCP functionality)
- 3 If not in DSL tariff, do not report voice-data lines on Line 2C2; but should be counted as access lines on lines 2A and B
- 4 Refer to CAF BLS CBOL pool treatment charts on our website for cost reporting requirements

Note: All participants must report access minutes

Source: NECA



Settlement reports Transaction terminology

- Computed month (or settlement cycle month)
 - Calendar month to which all transactions have been input
- Applies to month
 - Month to which the data is applicable
- Views of settlement data
 - Original = first transaction
 - Latest = DME + DMAs
 - Pending = latest view + new transactions not yet settled

DME example

Computed: 2/25 Applies to: 2/25

DMA example

Computed: 2/25 Applies to: 1/25



Settlement reports Input forms

- AS 1000 average schedule company input form
- EC 1050 cost company input form
- Four distinct areas
 - Identification
 - Data lines
 - Comments
 - Prepared by/certified by



https://simetrix-solutions.com/



Settlement reports Comments line

- All EC1050 and AS1000 input forms require the comment line to be populated
 - Comments need to be definitive when there is a range failure or a substantial change in demand data or revenues
 - Examples of comments stating what and why a data line increased or decreased
 - Circuit revenue decreased from \$14,000 to \$10,000 due to the disconnect of four DS1 circuits
 - Switched access minutes and revenue increased by 50,000 minutes and \$7,500 due to back-billing of minutes not obtainable for the prior month's July 1, 2024 bill date
 - ETS revenue increased by \$3,500 due to the installation of two new 100 Mbps services for cell towers in our study area



Settlement reports Output forms: AS3000/EC3050 settlement summary

- Settlement summary provides the following information:
 - Reflects the calculations of the DME month's settlement
 - Nets the DME month's settlement with all prior months' adjustments
 - Reflects cash flow between the EC and NECA



https://www.mahaneypappaslaw.com/



Settlement reports Output forms: EC2053 – prior period net adjustment detail

- What the EC2053 report tells you
 - Change in revenue indicates the EC/study area submitted new revenue amounts
 - Change in settlement amounts
 - Recalculated residue ratio reflecting all adjustments made by all ECs and/or
 - Cost information revisions made specifically by the EC
 - Change in net balance is the difference between revenue held by the EC and settlement amount
- Total net balance amounts transferred to EC3050-0 statement in the Net Balance Summary section

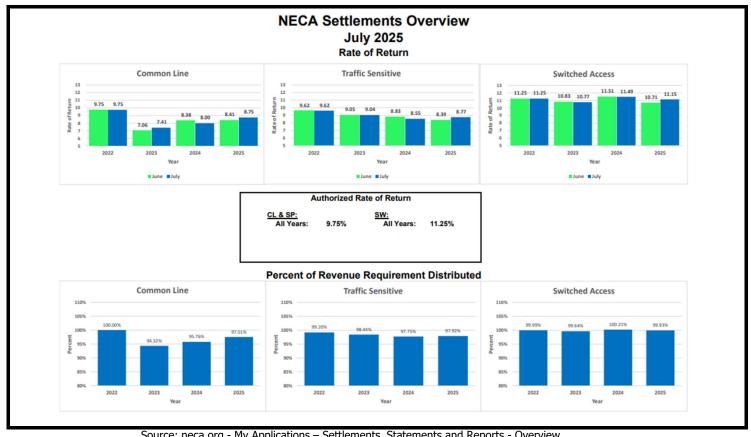


Settlement reports Disbursement statement

- What the disbursement statement tells you
 - Current net balance calculated on the AS3000/EC3050
 - Outside of the window adjustments
 - Connect America Fund Broadband Loop Support
 - Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation
- Statement or invoice



Settlement reports FCC authorized rate of return





Source: neca.org - My Applications - Settlements, Statements and Reports - Overview

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Rules of pool reporting Edit and range checks

- All data lines edit checked to ensure transaction meets prescribed standards
 - Prevents illogical inputs, e.g., access minutes must be greater than access lines
 - See Exhibit 2.1 of pool procedures
 - If transaction fails edit, data must be corrected
- After edit check, data is range checked
 - Data compared to expected range, based on past inputs
 - Transactions failing range must be special released
 - Comment required for range failures



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Rules of pool reporting Compliance testing

- ECs are required to adjust demand and revenue line items within three months following the DME
- Companies are allowed to indicate data as actual (with an A), via the settlement system or on a paper EC1050 or AS1000
 - Reduce the number of companies erroneously identified as noncompliant
 - Help to ensure the integrity of the pools
 - Reduce the number of calls/emails ECs receive from NECA regarding compliance issues



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Rules of pool reporting Compliance testing

- The following codes appear on the 2060 L and P reports as well as data entry screens:
 - A actual data
 - C compliant data
 - N noncompliant data
 - X not yet tested for compliance data
 - R region reviewed



Rules of pool reporting Compliance testing: 2060-L report

NECA SETTLEMENTS
Computed: DEC, 20XX
COST COMPANY TYPE: ANNUAL
COST STUDY MONTH END: DEC

24 MONTH LATEST VIEW COST

EC2060-L Page 1 of 8

DATE APPL	* (1) IA MINUTES		*RESID LN		*MULTI BU LN	IS	* ACC LINES IN SERVICE	SP ACC SURCHRG	FUSC	***LN PORT: ISDN & DS1
DEC, 20XX	3,600,000	Χ	9,045	X	1,786	X	10,831	0	8,806	244
NOV, 20XX	3,600,000	X	9,029	X	1,784	X	10,813	179	9,993	291
OCT, 20XX	3,600,000	Χ	9,029	X	1,784	X	10,813	179	9,993	291
SEP, 20XX	3,600,000	Ν	9,029	Ν	1,784	Ν	10,813	179	9,993	291
AUG, 20XX	3,674,785	С	8,970	С	1,788	Ν	10,758	179	9,993	291
JUL, 20XX	3,527,869	С	8,970	С	1,788	Ν	10,758	179	9,824	291
JUN, 20XX	3,586,721	С	8,970	С	1,788	Ν	10,758	166	10,712	291
MAY, 20XX	3,546,605	С	8,970	С	1,788	С	10,758	166	13,549	291
APR, 20XX	3,745,443	С	8,970	С	1,784	С	10,758	166	13,395	291
MAR, 20XX	3,345,825	С	9,029	С	1,784	С	10,813	166	12,750	291
FEB, 20XX	3,753,215	С	9,010	С	1,784	С	10,794	166	12,060	291
JAN, 20XX	3,844,899	С	8,997	С	1,784	С	10,775	166	11,858	291
DEC, 20XX	3,666,907	Α	8,976	Α	1,784	Α	10,760	166	11,736	338
NOV, 20XX	3,768,567	Α	9,092	Α	1,774	Α	10,866	174	11,683	289
OCT, 20XX	3,405,925	Α	9,112	Α	1,764	Α	10,876	178	11,703	289
SEP, 20XX	3,709,103	Α	9,211	С	1,758	С	10,969	179	11,650	289
AUG, 20XX	3,664,909	Α	9,212	С	1,760	С	10,972	179	11,599	289
JUL, 20XX	3,556,010	Α	9,214	С	1,761	С	10,975	179	11,390	289
JUN, 20XX	3,634,798	Α	9,222	С	1,765	С	10,987	223	11,650	289
MAY, 20XX	3,630,814	Α	9,165	С	1,760	С	10,925	223	12,196	289
APR, 20XX	3,842,450	Α	9,157	С	1,760	С	10,917	205	12,031	289
MAR, 20XX	3,226,430	С	1,957	С	1,760	С	10,917	247	11,804	289
FEB, 20XX	3,731,446	С	9,149	С	1,774	С	10,923	247	11,436	289
JAN, 20XX	3,762,122	С	9,148	С	1,774	С	10,922	209	11,265	289
DEC, 20XX	3,605,933	С	9,160	С	1,776	С	10,936	231_	10,153	289
HIGH	3,844,899		9,222		1,788		10,987	247	13,549	338
AVG	3,625,311		9,079		1,776		10,855	186	11,329	290
LOW	3,226,430		8,970		1,758		10,758	166	8,806	244



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Rules of pool reporting Compliance testing

- Demand and revenue should be trued up within three months of DME
 - Access lines in service (residential, single line business and multiline business)
 - End user revenues
 - Traffic sensitive earned revenues
 - ETS revenue
 - DSL voice-data revenue
 - CBOL revenue
 - DSL data-only second mile revenue



Rules of pool reporting Compliance testing

- Expense and investment items related to forecast and cost study amounts are tested for noncompliance
 - Cost forecast submitted in February must be pooled
 - Cost studies submitted in July must be pooled by August lock



Rules of pool reporting Advance notification

 Contact region office if a monthly adjustment exceeds the following significance thresholds for each pool (cost companies):

EC1050 Line Items	Common Line	Switched or Special Traffic Sensitive
Revenue, Uncollectibles, Expenses and Other Taxes, Income Adj. for FIT	\$50,000	\$50,000
FIT Tax Credit	\$40,000	\$40,000
Average Net Investment	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

 Failure to meet the advance notification requirements can result in NECA not processing the adjustment in the month submitted



Rules of pool reporting Advance notification

 Contact region office if a monthly adjustment exceeds the following significance thresholds for each pool (average schedule companies)

Pool Thresholds (+ or -) per Line Item/Month		
AS1000-I Line Items	Common Line	
Revenues Access Lines Universal Service Contribution Reimbursement	\$50,000 10,000 \$50,000	
AS1000-I Line Items	Traffic Sensitive	
Revenues TS Other	\$50,000 \$50,000	

 Failure to meet the advance notification requirements can result in NECA not processing the adjustment in the month submitted



Rules of pool reporting Monthly settlement certification

- Settlement data must be certified online
- Electronic certification by an EC officer/employee having responsibility for preparation of data
- Certification must be submitted to NECA by the 10th workday of the month following the certification month





Rules of pool reporting Monthly settlement certification



Select Settlements Certification
on your My Applications menu:

- Service Pricing Tool
- Settlements Certification
- Settlements Statements and Reports
- Submit DSL Filing Form



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Submit Term Discount Filing Form

Tariff Elections - Annual Election

Tariff Elections - ACAM II Notification and CL Rates

Rules of pool reporting Monthly settlement certification



Settlement Certification - Report Selection

Report Criteria:					
Study Area: Member Service Manager:	123456 – SAMPLE TEL CO LLC	V	Exchange Carrier: Region:	100000056 – SAMPLE TEL CO LLC	V
Consultant: Status:	ALL Uncertified ✓	V	Settle Cycle Month:	201905 V Through 201905 V	
Format: • Adobe PDF • Microsoft	Excel	C	Get Report Exit		



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Summary

- We file interstate tariffs and administer interstate revenue pools
- Companies' settlements recover interstate costs based on individual study area revenue requirement
- Cost companies' settlement is based on individual cost studies while average schedule companies' settlement is based on average schedule formulas and reported revenues and demand
- The pooling process consists of demand, revenue and cost reporting. A settlement is earned monthly
- Settlements are earned, not paid; net balances are paid or collected



thank you.



Scholow | Scholo



Acronyms

AMOU Access Minutes of Use

ARC Access Recovery Charge

AS Average Schedule

ASCP Access Service Connection Point

BDS Broadband Data Services

CABS Carrier Access Billing System

CAF BLS Connect America Fund Broadband Loop Support

CAF ICC Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation

CBOL Consumer Broadband-Only Loop

CL Common Line

DMA Data Month Adjustment

DME Data Month Estimate

D-O Data-only

DSL Digital Subscriber Line



Acronyms

EC Exchange Carrier

ETS Ethernet Transport Service

EU End User

EXP Expenses

FCC Federal Communications Commission

IC Interexchange Carrier

ILEC Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier

ISDN Integrated Services Digital Network

NECA National Exchange Carrier Association

PIC Primary Interexchange Carrier

PPNA Prior Period Net Adjustment

RoR Rate of Return

RRQ Revenue Requirement

SPA Special Access



Acronyms

SW	Switched
- J V V	JWILLICA

SWA Switched Access

SWC Serving Wire Center

TET Tariff Element Tracking

TS Traffic Sensitive

UNE Unbundled Network Element

USAC Universal Service Administrative Company

USF Universal Service Fund

