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## **Interconnection Policy**

ERC Broadband (“ERC”) provides an interconnection point in its Asheville Points of Presence (“PoP”). Last-mile providers (including Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, Multiple System Operators, Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, energy cooperatives, and independent telecom companies) may interconnect with ERC’s network at reasonable rates and terms for the purpose of exchanging traffic.

This interconnection point also allows commercial wholesale participants to serve last-mile providers with wholesale access, at reasonable rates and terms, to network components and services such as wavelengths and fibers.

The ERC predominately serves the needs of Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs – organizations such as schools, community colleges, other institutions of higher education, healthcare organizations, governmental services, and community support organizations).

In order to provide more direct interconnection between residential users and CAIs, ERC encourages settlement-free peering with all willing Internet service providers within North Carolina.