

**Birch Communications of the Northeast, Inc.**  
**d/b/a Birch**  
PSC No: 1 - Telephone  
Effective Date: March 3, 2017

Leaf 35  
Revision: 0  
Superseding Revision:

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LOCAL AND INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

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SECTION 2 - RULES AND REGULATIONS (CONT'D.)

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

2.5.6 Deposits (Cont'd.)

C. Return of Deposit

When a deposit is to be returned, the Customer may request that the full amount of the deposit be issued by check. If the Customer requests that the full amount be credited to amounts owed the Company, the Company will process the transaction on the billing date and apply the deposit to any amount currently owed to the Company, and return any remaining amount of the deposit to the Customer by check

D. For Residential Customers

1. General

Except as provided in the following, the Company may require a deposit, as described in Section 2.5.6 A-C of this tariff, from a residential Customer who is applying for service if the Customer:

- a. has had service terminated for nonpayment once within the preceding six month period.
- b. is delinquent in payment. A Customer is delinquent in payment if that Customer has received two consecutive telephone bills without making payment of at least one-half the total arrears due on the due date of the second bill. A Customer is not considered delinquent, however, if an amount in dispute is not paid before the dispute is resolved.
- c. fails to provide reasonable proof of identity.
- d. does not give the Company permission to determine the existence of reportable charges or if the Customer has been terminated for nonpayment during the preceding six (6) months on a current or previous account with other local telephone companies.

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Issued By: Gordon P. Williams, Jr., Senior Vice President & General Counsel