

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

Leaf 31  
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.)

2.5.2 Billing and Collection of Charges (Cont'd.)

- C. When service does not begin on the first day of the month, or end on the last day of the month, the charge for the fraction of the month in which service was furnished will be calculated on a pro rata basis. For this purpose, every month is considered to have thirty (30) days.
- D. Billing of the Customer by the Company will begin on the Service Commencement Date, which is the first day following the date on which the Company notifies the Customer that the service or facility is available for use, except that the Service Commencement Date may be postponed by mutual agreement of the parties, or if the service or facility does not conform to standards set forth in this tariff or the Service Order. Billing accrues through and includes the day that the service, circuit, arrangement or component is discontinued.
- E. If any portion of the payment is not received by the Company, or if any portion of the payment is received by the Company in funds that are not immediately available, by the due date on the bill, then a late payment penalty shall be due the Company. The late payment penalty shall be that portion of the payment not received by the date due minus any charges billed as local taxes multiplied by 1.5% or the highest allowable by law. A Finance Charge of 1.5% shall apply to the outstanding balance of charges, as at the end of the "Due Before Date", with effect from the second month after the charges are first applied, and every month thereafter. Late payment charges do not apply to government agencies of the State of New York. These agencies are required to make payment in accordance with the provisions of Article XI-A of the State Finance Law (Chapter 153 of the Laws of 1984).
- F. Customers will be assessed a charge, as set forth in the Current Rates section of this Tariff, for each check submitted by the Customer to the Company that a financial institution refuses to honor.
- G. If service is disconnected by the Company in accordance with Section 2.5.7 following and later restored, restoration of service will be subject to all applicable installation charges

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