

Birch Communications of the Northeast, Inc.
d/b/a Birch
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LOCAL AND INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

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

2.5 Payment Arrangements (Cont'd.)

2.5.6 Deposits

Subject to special provisions as may be set forth in this tariff, any applicant or Customer whose financial responsibility is not established to the satisfaction of the Company may be required to deposit a sum up to an amount equal to the total of the estimated local service and intraLATA toll charges for up to two months for the facilities and service. If the minimum period of service for the requested facilities and service is more than one month, as specified in this Tariff, the Customer may also be required to deposit a sum up to an amount equal to the total charges for service for the minimum service period less any connection charge paid by the Customer.

The fact that a deposit has been made shall in no way relieve the applicant or Customer from complying with the Tariff regulations for the prompt payment of bills on presentation. Each applicant from whom a deposit is collected will be given a certificate of deposit and circular containing the terms and conditions applicable to deposits, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Department pertaining to Customer deposits.

A. Interest on Deposits

Simple interest at the rate specified by the Department shall be credited or paid to the Customer while the Company holds the deposit.

B. Inadequate Deposit

If the amount of a deposit is proven to be less than required to meet the requirements specified above, the Customer shall be required to pay an additional deposit upon request.

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