

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

SECTION 5 – LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (CONT'D.)

5.1 General (Cont'd.)

5.1.2 Charges Based on Duration of Use

Where charges for a service are specified based on the duration of use, such as the duration of a telephone call, the following rules apply:

- A. Calls are measured in durational increments identified for each service. All calls that are fractions of a measurement increment are rounded-up to the next whole unit.
- B. Timing on completed calls begins when the call is answered by the called party. Answering is determined by hardware answer supervision in all cases where this signaling is provided by the terminating local carrier and any intermediate carrier(s). Timing for operator service person-to-person calls start with completion of the connection to the person called or an acceptable substitute, or to the PBX station called.
- C. Timing terminates on all calls when the calling party hangs up or the Company network receives an off-hook signal from the terminating carrier.
- D. Calls originating in one time period and terminating in another will be billed in proportion to the rates in effect during different segments of the call.
- E. All times refer to local time.

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