

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

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

2.9 Allowances for Interruptions in Service

Interruptions in service that are not due to the negligence of, or noncompliance with the provisions of this tariff by, the Customer or the operation or malfunction of the facilities, power or equipment provided by the Customer, will be credited to the Customer as set forth in 2.9.1 for the part of the service that the interruption affects.

2.9.1 General

- A. A credit allowance will be given when service is interrupted, except as specified below. A service is interrupted when it becomes inoperative to the Customer, e.g., the Customer is unable to transmit or receive, because of a failure of a component furnished by the Company under this rate sheet.
- B. An interruption period begins when the Customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be inoperative and, if necessary, releases it for testing and repair. An interruption period ends when the service, facility or circuit is operative.
- C. If the Customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be interrupted but declines to release it for testing and repair, or refuses access to its premises for test and repair by the Company, the service, facility or circuit is considered to be impaired but not interrupted. No credit allowances will be made for a service, facility or circuit considered by the Company to be impaired.
- D. The Customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges as set forth herein for visits by the Company's agents or employees to the premises of the Customer when the service difficulty or trouble report results from the use of equipment or facilities provided by any party other than the Company, including but not limited to the Customer.

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