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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.)

- 2.22 Health Care Providers Support Program (Cont'd.)
 - 2.22.2 Regulations (Cont'd.)
 - E. Responsibility of the Company
 - 1. The Company shall offer the rates and charges as specified in Section 2.23.3, to eligible health care providers to the extent that facilities and services are available and offered in the tariffs specified in 2.23.1. preceding.
 - 2. The Company shall offer services to eligible rural health care providers and consortia at prices no higher than the highest urban rate as defined in the FCC Order and Rules.
 - 3. In competitive bidding situations, where specific flexible pricing arrangements are allowed, the Company may offer flexible pricing (to determine the reduced rate) subject to New York Department of Public Service approval.

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