

Birch Communications of the Northeast, Inc.
d/b/a Birch
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ACCESS SERVICES

SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

3.3 Rate Categories

There are three rate categories which apply to Switched Access Service:

- End Office Switching (includes Common Line and Switched Transport)
- Toll-Free 8XX Data Base Access Service
- Optional Features

3.3.1 End Office Switching

The Company combines traditional per minute switched access rate elements into a single composite per minute rate element. This element includes the following rate categories:

A. Common Line

The Common Line rate category establishes the charges related to the use of Company-provided end user common lines by customers and end users for intrastate access.

B. Switched Transport

The Switched Transport rate category establishes the charges related to the transmission and tandem switching facilities between the customer designated premises and the end office switch(es) where the customer's traffic is switched to originate or terminate the customer's communications. The Switched Transport rate category also includes transport between an end office which serves as host for a remote switching system or module (RSS or RSM) and the RSS or RSM.

C. End Office Switching

The End Office Switching rate category establishes the charges related to the use of end office switching equipment, the terminations in the end office of end user lines, the terminations of calls at Company Intercept Operators or recordings, the Signaling Transfer Point (STP) costs, and the SS7 signaling function between the end office and the STP.

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