

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

SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

3.2 Manner of Provision

- 3.2.1 Switched Feature Group (FG) Access is furnished for originating and terminating calls by the Customer to its End User. FG Access is furnished on a per-line or per trunk basis.
- 3.2.2 Originating traffic type represents access capacity within a LATA for carrying traffic from the End User to the Customer; and Terminating traffic type represents access capacity within a LATA for carrying traffic from the Customer to the End User. When ordering capacity for FG Access, the Customer must at a minimum specify such access capacity in terms of originating traffic type and/or terminating traffic type.
- 3.2.3 Feature Group Access is provisioned, at minimum, at the DS-1 level and provides line-side or trunk-side access to End Office switches, for the Customer's use in originating and terminating communications. Basic FG Access service will be provided with Multi-Frequency In Band Signaling (SS7 is also available, where capabilities exist).
- 3.2.4 Two types of Feature Group Access are available:
 - A. Tandem Connect Access: This option applies when the customer has no direct facilities to the Company. All traffic is routed to and from Company=s End Office via the Customer=s tandem provider. Delivery of calls to, or acceptance of calls from, the Customer=s End User location(s) via Company-provided Tandem Connect Access services shall constitute a Constructive Order and an agreement by the Customer to purchase the Company=s switched access services as described and priced herein.
 - B. Direct Connect Access: The Company will provide facilities between the Customer=s premises and a Company End Office. This transmission path is dedicated to the use of a single Customer. The Company requires the Customer to submit an ASR or comparable documentation for Direct Connect Access. Direct Connect Access is provided on an Individual Case Basis as Special Service Arrangements pursuant to Section 6 of this tariff.

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