

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

SECTION 3 - SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE (CONT'D)

3.5 Special Construction or Special Service Arrangements

- 3.5.1 Subject to the agreement of the Company and to all of the regulations contained in this tariff, special construction of Company facilities or development of special service arrangements may be undertaken by the Company on a reasonable-efforts basis at the request of the Customer. Such construction or arrangements will be provided pursuant to regulations contained in Section 6 of this tariff.

3.6 Obligations of the Company

- 3.6.1 With regard to access services provided by the Company, specific Company responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

A. Network Management

The Company will administer its network to ensure that provision of acceptable service levels to all telecommunications users of the Company's network services. Generally, service levels are considered acceptable only when both End Users and Customers are able to establish connections with minimal delay encountered within the Company network. The Company maintains the right to apply protective controls, i.e., those actions, such as call gapping, which selectively cancel the completion of traffic, over any traffic carried over its network, including that associated with a Customer's Switched Access Service. Generally, such protective measures would only be taken as a result of occurrences such as a failure or overload of Company or Customer facilities, natural disasters, mass calling or national security demands.

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