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December 11, 2017

Via Federal Express

Luly Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Birch Communications, Inc. - NEW Statement of Business Operations

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Birch Communications, Inc. ("Birch"), by its attorneys, filed a NEW Statement of Business Operations ("SBO") on November 30, 2017. Birch hereby supplements its SBO, provides the \$300 check that was inadvertently returned by the Commission, and requests a docket number assignment for its SBO.

As clarification, Birch Communications of the Northeast, Inc. ("Birch Northeast") currently holds a SBO in Rhode Island. Birch is now filing for a new SBO. Birch is an entirely separate company that will serve business customers only. The Birch family of companies is undertaking an internal corporate restructuring in which Birch Northeast will serve residential and single-line business customers only, and Birch will serve business customers only. For this reason, Birch did not include tariff pages with its SBO. Birch will post its price list for business customers on its website (www.birch.com) once it receives all necessary authorizations and the internal corporate restructuring is completed.

Finally, Birch understands the Commission will not act on its SBO until the Commission has received evidence of Birch's registration with the Secretary of State. Birch is in the process of completing that registration, and will supplement its SBO once received.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela F. Collins

Counsel for Birch Communications, Inc.

Enclosures

Statement of Business Operations
of Birch Communications, Inc.
regarding provision of telecommunications
service in Rhode Island

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STATEMENT OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Pursuant to the rules of the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”), Birch Communications, Inc. (“Birch”) hereby files its Statement of Business Operations (“SBO”) to provide basic local exchange service in Rhode Island.

a) **Corporate name, complete address, telephone/fax numbers, e-mail address:**

Birch Communications, Inc.
320 Interstate North Parkway SE
Atlanta, GA 30339
678-424-2400 (telephone)
678-424-2501 (facsimile)

Birch is in the process of registering to do business in Rhode Island, and will supplement this SBO once received.

b) **Local company name, address, telephone/fax numbers, e-mail address:**

Not applicable.

c) **Business locations:**

Headquarters: Atlanta, GA
Operations: Macon, GA
Kansas City, MO
Emporia, MO

d) **Service agent, complete address, telephone/fax numbers, e-mail address:**

Corporation Service Company
222 Jefferson Boulevard
Suite 200
Warwick, RI 02888

f) **Attorney of record, complete address, telephone/fax numbers, e-mail address:**

Angela F. Collins
Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP
1990 K St. NW, Suite 950
Washington, DC 20006
202-862-8900 (telephone)
866-814-6582 (facsimile)

g) **Corporate officers and major stockholders or partners holding a ten percent or greater equity interest:**

Please see Exhibit A for corporate officer information.

Birch Communications, Inc. is wholly owned by Birch Communications Holdings, Inc. The following are the major stockholders in Birch Communications Holdings, Inc.:

- (1) R. Kirby Godsey, a U.S. citizen, owns 24% of Birch Communications Holdings, Inc.
- (2) Holcombe T. Green, Jr., a U.S. citizen, owns 62% of Birch Communications Holdings, Inc. Mr. Green also holds another 3.5% of Birch Communications Holdings, Inc. as the Trustee of various annuity trusts.

h) **General description of operations:**

Birch will offer local exchange and long distance services to large business customers in Rhode Island. This Statement of Business Operations is being filed pursuant to an internal corporate reorganization pursuant to which Birch will serve large business customers in Rhode Island and Birch's affiliate – Birch Communications of the Northeast, Inc. ("Birch Northeast") – will serve residential and single-line business customers. Birch Northeast was authorized in Docket No. 4386 (February 3, 2013). Birch will offer service within the existing service territory of Birch Northeast. Given that Birch will serve large business customers only, it will post a price list of its rates, tolls, and charges on its website, www.birch.com.

i) **Description, in detail, of the customer service organization to be employed in serving carriers and end users:**

Birch uses in-house customer service personnel to address customer service issues.

j) Customer service contact, complete address, telephone/fax numbers, e-mail address:

Angela Howard
2323 Grand Boulevard, Suite 925
Kansas City, MO 64108
816-300-1428
complaints@birch.com

k) Regulatory contact person, complete address, telephone/fax numbers, e-mail address:

Sharyl Fowler
Manager, Regulatory Administration
115 Gateway Drive
Macon, GA 31210
478-475-9800 (telephone)
478-405-3112 (facsimile)
sharyl.fowler@birch.com

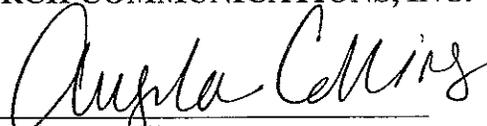
l) Company website URL:

www.birch.com

WHEREFORE, with the foregoing information and attached exhibits, Birch respectfully seeks to provide telecommunications service in the state of Rhode Island.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH COMMUNICATIONS, INC.



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1990 K St. NW, Suite 950
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Dated this 29th day of November, 2017

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A Managerial Qualifications and Technical Competence

Exhibit B Birch Financial Statement – CONFIDENTIAL

Exhibit A
Managerial Qualifications

R. Kirby Godsey – Chairman of the Board and Director: Dr. Godsey served as President and CEO of Mercer University for 27 years before being named Chancellor in 2006 by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Godsey earned his undergraduate degree in history and religion from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. He holds Master of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Alabama. In 1969, he earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Tulane University. The University of South Carolina, Averett College and Samford University have all awarded him honorary degrees.

Holcombe T. Green, Jr. – Director: Mr. Green has over thirty years of experience investing in and growing market-leading public and private businesses. As an entrepreneur, Holcombe founded Green Capital Investors, a private equity investment management firm and served as the Chairman, Board Member or Chief Executive Officer of many of Green Capital's portfolio companies. Mr. Green received his BA from Yale University and his J.D. from the University of Virginia.

James P. O'Brien – Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer: O'Brien has direct oversight of Birch IT, Cloud, Engineering, and Product Development as well as operations groups consisting of Order Assurance, Customer Care, Margin Assurance, and Field Operations. O'Brien is a 20+year communications operations executive and has served in several executive positions at notable CLECs including Deltacom –now EarthLink– and ICG Communications. O'Brien comes to Birch from Rise Broadband where he most recently served as Senior Vice President of Customer Operations and led all Network and Field Operations, Customer Care, Contact Center and Technical Support groups.

Kevin M. Dotts – Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer: Birch announced the appointment of Kevin Dotts as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on February 7, 2017. Dotts oversees all financial operations and investor relations, and corporate sourcing for the company. Dotts is an expert in driving key corporate growth initiatives across multiple high-tech industries with over 30 years of experience. Before joining Birch, Kevin served as Chief Financial Officer of Internap, a Cloud, Hosting, and Colocation business. Before Internap, Kevin was Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Culligan International in Chicago and EarthLink in Atlanta. Kevin started his career with financial leadership roles in various domestic and international divisions of GE. Dotts holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Computer Systems Management from Drexel University. He is based out of the company's Atlanta Operations Center.

Gordon P. Williams, Jr. – Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel: Gordon "Chuck" Williams is responsible for all legal affairs, including corporate governance, legal operations, litigation and regulatory compliance at the company. Williams brings 30+ years of legal leadership experience to Birch. He is a Martindale-Hubbell AV- Preeminent® rated attorney with demonstrated expertise in strategic planning and execution to build sustainable enterprise value, and he has served as Counsel to public and private global companies both in a

General Counsel role and in private practice. Williams has extensive experience in the communications industry with previous roles at Broadwing Communications, Wayport and MCI. Most recently, he served as a partner at Culhane Meadows, PLLC. Williams is a graduate of the University of Richmond with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Richmond's School of Law. He will be based at the Atlanta Operations Center, and lives in the Atlanta area.

Michelle H. Ansley – Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, Human Resources: Michelle Ansley is responsible for the management of Human Resources activities and oversight of facility management for all Birch locations. Ms. Ansley began her career in technology and transitioned into Human Resources via Learning and Development and Change Management. Prior to joining Birch in 2014, she served as Vice President of Human Resources at ASAP Solutions, LLC; Senior Vice President of Shared Services at Prommis Solutions, LLC; and held various human resources, learning and development, technical and program management positions at IBM. Ms. Ansley holds a Bachelor's of Business Administration from Kennesaw State University and a Masters in Business Administration from Georgia State University.

Exhibit B

Birch Financial Statement - CONFIDENTIAL