



November 17, 2017
Via Overnight Delivery

Ms. Irene Kim Asbury, Secretary of the Board
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Ave
3rd Floor Suite 314
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOV 20 2017

MAIL RECEIVED

RE: Birch Communications, Inc.
Revision for NJBPU Tariff No. 1 (Local)

Dear Ms. Asbury:

TT17111185

Enclosed for filing please find the original and four (4) copies of the above referenced tariff filing submitted on behalf of Birch Communications, Inc. ("Company"). This filing increases business and residential monthly recurring charges for BirchNet Basic Line, Value Line, Essentials and Basic Plus local exchange services and increases Directory Assistance charges. Customers were notified of these rate changes via the enclosed bill messages. The Company respectfully requests an effective date of November 27, 2017 for this filing.

The following tariff pages are included:

10 th Revised Page 2	Updates Check Sheet
3 rd Revised Page 43	Increases BirchNet Value Line Business MRCs
1 st Revised Page 49.1	Increases BirchNet Value Line Residential MRCs
1 st Revised Page 56.1	Increases BirchNet Basic Line Residential MRCs
1 st Revised Page 56.5	Increases BirchNet Essentials Residential MRCs
1 st Revised Page 56.8	Increases BirchNet Basic Plus Residential MRCs
3 rd Revised Page e60	Increases BirchNet Basic Line Business MRCs
3 rd Revised Page 64	Increases BirchNet Essentials Business MRCs
1 st Revised Page 66.1	Increases BirchNet Basic Plus Business MRCs
1 st Revised Page 74.1	Increases Directory Assistance Charges

Please acknowledge receipt of this filing by date-stamping the extra copy of this cover letter and returning it to me in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided for that purpose.

Any questions you may have regarding this filing should be directed to my attention at 407-740-3006 or via email to croesel@tminc.com. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carey Roesel
Consultant to Birch Communications, Inc.

CMS
LEGAL
DAG
RPA
TELEC

cc: David Gibson (via Email) - Birch
tms: NJ11703
Enclosures
CR/sp

Customer Notice
Birch Communications

BUSINESS POTS Increases (out of contract, beyond initial term, non-elite customers affected)

Did you know that Birch offers Voice over IP products and services in addition to traditional phone services? If you would like more information about upgrading to the Birch VoIP network and Voice Essentials or Hosted PBX products with rates starting as low as \$24.99 per month, please visit the following website : <http://birchvoice.com/migrate> or call us at 1-866-889-1092

Birch Communications makes every attempt possible to minimize customer rate increases, however we must adjust some rates on your account to reflect cost increases for providing your traditional voice services. Effective on your next invoice, your line rates will be increased by \$_____ each.

CONSUMER POTS Increases (out of contract, beyond initial term, non-elite customers affected)

Did you know that Birch offers Voice over IP products and services in addition to traditional phone services? If you would like more information for options about our digital home phone VoIP plans starting as low as \$9.95 per month, please call us at 888-772-4724 and choose option 3.

Birch Communications makes every attempt possible to minimize customer rate increases, however we must adjust some rates on your account to reflect cost increases for providing your traditional voice services. Effective on your next invoice, your line rates will be increased by \$_____ each.

Directory Assistance (All customers affected as per use charge)

Birch Communications makes every attempt possible to minimize customer rate increases but, at this time, we must adjust some rates on your account to reflect our cost increase for providing service in your area for Directory Assistance services. Effective on your next invoice, your Directory Assistance rates will be adjusted. The new rates for each state can be found at: <http://www.birch.com/directory-assistance>.

CHECK SHEET

Pages of this tariff, as indicated below, are effective as of the date shown at the bottom of the respective pages. Original and revised pages, as named below, comprise all changes from the original tariff and are currently in effect as of the date on the bottom of this page.

PAGE	REVISION		PAGE	REVISION		PAGE	REVISION		PAGE	REVISION
1	Original		36	Original		56.11	Original		82	Original
2	10 th Revised	*	37	Original		57	1st Revised		83	Original
3	1st Revised		38	Original		58	1st Revised		84	3 rd Revised
4	Original		39	Original		59	1st Revised		85	Original
5	Original		40	1st Revised		60	3 rd Revised	*	86	Original
6	Original		41	Original		61	1 st Revised		87	Original
7	2 nd Revised		42	1st Revised		62	2 nd Revised		88	Original
8	6 th Revised		43	3 rd Revised	*	63	Original		89	Original
9	Original		44	3 rd Revised		64	3 rd Revised	*	90	Original
10	Original		45	Original		64.1	Original		91	Original
11	Original		46	Original		65	1st Revised		92	Original
12	Original		47	1st Revised		66	Original		93	Original
13	1st Revised		48	Original		66.1	1 st Revised	*	94	Original
14	Original		49	1st Revised		66.2	Original		95	Original
15	Original		49.1	1 st Revised	*	66.3	Original		96	Original
16	Original		49.2	Original		66.4	Original		97	Original
17	Original		49.3	Original		65	1st Revised		98	Original
18	Original		49.4	Original		66	Original		99	1st Revised
19	Original		50	1st Revised		67	2 nd Revised		100	1st Revised
20	Original		51	1st Revised		68	2nd Revised		101	1st Revised
21	Original		52	1st Revised		69	Original		102	Original
22	Original		53	1st Revised		70	Original		103	Original
23	2 nd Revised		54	Original		71	1 st Revised		104	Original
24	Original		55	1 st Revised		72	1 st Revised		105	Original
25	Original		56	1 st Revised		73	1 st Revised		106	Original
26	Original		56.1	1 st Revised	*	74	1 st Revised		107	Original
27	Original		56.2	Original		74.1	1 st Revised	*	108	Original
28	Original		56.3	Original		75	1 st Revised		109	Original
29	Original		56.4	Original		75.1	Original		110	Original
30	Original		56.5	1 st Revised	*	76	Original		111	Original
31	Original		56.6	Original		77	Original		112	Original
32	Original		56.7	Original		78	Original			
33	Original		56.8	1 st Revised	*	79	Original			
34	Original		56.9	Original		80	Original			
35	Original		56.10	Original		81	Original			

* - indicates those pages included with this filing

Issue Date: November 20, 2017

Effective Date: November 27, 2017

Gordon P. Williams, Jr. - Senior Vice President and General Counsel
 2323 Grand Blvd., Suite 925
 Kansas City, MO 64108

SECTION 4 – BASIC BUSINESS SERVICES, (CONT'D)
4.2 Exchange Access Line Service**4.2.3 BirchNetSM Value Line (1) (2)**

The BirchNetSM Value Line is a stand alone, flat business line.

(A) Charges**1. Monthly Recurring Charges**Monthly Rates:

<u>Location:</u>	<u>36-Month Term:</u>	<u>24-Month Term:</u>	<u>12-Month Term:</u>	
Zone 1	\$47.95 (I)	\$47.95 (I)	\$50.95 (I)	(C)
Zone 2	\$51.95 (I)	\$51.95 (I)	\$51.95 (I)	
Zone 3	\$50.95 (I)	\$50.95 (I)	\$53.95 (I)	
Zone 4	\$56.95 (I)	\$56.95 (I)	\$59.95 (I)	(C)

1. Non- Recurring Charges are located in Section

2. BirchSM Long Distance Rates for BirchNetSM Value Line: (3)

<u>BirchSM Long Distance</u>	<u>Rate per minute</u>
All Long Distance Minutes	\$0.069

Long distance is only applicable to standard outbound domestic long distance only, originating from a Customer of the Company to the 50 US States, and US territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, USVI, No. Marianas, American Samoa). All other types of calls, (Operator Assisted Long Distance calls, OS/DA, International, Toll Free, Calling Card, etc.), will be rated at standard rate according to the rate tables established for the calls.

(B) Optional Calling Features

Features are available on a Usage Sensitive Basis. The Customer will be billed the Per Feature Activation Charge each time the feature is used by the Customer. See Section 9.2 of this tariff for feature availability and rates.

SECTION 5 – BASIC RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, (CONT'D)

5.2 Exchange Access Line Service, (Cont'd)

5.2.3 BirchNetSM Value Line

BirchNetSM Value Line is a stand alone, flat residential line.

(A) Charges

All zones, all terms, per month: \$63.95 (I)

1. Non- Recurring Charges are located in Section
2. BirchSM Long Distance Rates for BirchNetSM Value Line:

<u>BirchSM Long Distance</u>	<u>Rate per minute</u>
All Long Distance Minutes	\$0.069

Long distance is only applicable to standard outbound domestic long distance only, originating from a Customer of the Company to the 50 US States, and US territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, USVI, No. Marianas, American Samoa). All other types of calls, (Operator Assisted Long Distance calls, OS/DA, International, Toll Free, Calling Card, etc.), will be rated at standard rate according to the rate tables established for the calls.

(B) Optional Calling Features

Features are offered on a Usage Sensitive Basis. The Customer will be billed the Per Feature Activation Charge each time the feature is used by the Customer. See Section 9.2 of this tariff for feature availability and rates.

SECTION 6 – PACKAGED SERVICES, (CONT'D)

6.1 Residential Service Packages, (Cont'd)

6.1.7 BirchNetSM Basic Line

(A) BirchNetSM Basic Line is equipped with:

Basic Residential Line (1)
Unlimited Local, Intra-LATA Long Distance
Caller ID – Name and Number (2) (6)
Call Waiting (2)
Hunting

(B) Rates and Charges

1. All zones, all terms, per month: \$63.95 (I)
2. Non- Recurring Charges are located in Section 7.
3. BirchSM Long Distance Rates for BirchNetSM Basic Line: (5)

<u>BirchSM Long Distance</u>	<u>Rate per minute</u>
All Long Distance Minutes	\$0.049

Long distance is only applicable to standard outbound domestic long distance only, originating from a Customer of the Company to the 50 US States, and US territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, USVI, No. Marianas, American Samoa). All other types of calls, (Operator Assisted Long Distance calls, OS/DA, International, Toll Free, Calling Card, etc.), will be rated at standard rate according to the rate tables established for the calls.

SECTION 6 – PACKAGED SERVICES, (CONT'D)
6.1 Residential Service Packages, (Cont'd)**6.1.8 BirchNetSM Essentials**

- (A) BirchNet Essentials
- SM
- is equipped with:

Basic Residential Line (1) (5)
 Unlimited Features (2) (3)
 Hunting
 Unlimited Local Intra-LATA Long Distance
 200 Minutes of Domestic Inter-LATA Long Distance (4)

- (B) Rates and Charges

1. Monthly Recurring Charges

<u>Location:</u>	<u>36-Month Term:</u>	<u>24-Month Term:</u>	<u>12-Month Term:</u>
Zone 1	\$52.95 (I)	\$52.95 (I)	\$52.95 (I)
Zone 2	\$55.95 (I)	\$55.95 (I)	\$55.95 (I)
Zone 3	\$62.95 (I)	\$62.95 (I)	\$62.95 (I)

2. Non- Recurring Charges are located in Section 7.
3. 200 Minute Long Distance Calling Block for BirchNet EssentialsSM:

<u>Block of Time per Month</u>	<u>Usage Rate per Minute</u>
200 Minutes of Domestic Long Distance	Included in bundle
Additional Minutes	\$.049

Long distance is only applicable to standard outbound domestic long distance only, originating from a Customer of the Company to the 50 US States, and US territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, USVI, No. Marianas, American Samoa). All other types of calls, (Operator Assisted Long Distance calls, OS/DA, International, Toll Free, Calling Card, etc.), will be rated at standard rate according to the rate tables established for the calls.

- (C) BirchNet Essentials
- SM
- Inclusive Feature List:

Anonymous Call Rejection	Caller ID – Name and Number
Call Block	Distinctive Ringing Service
Call Forwarding Busy Line	Preferred Call Forwarding
Call Forwarding No Answer	Remote Access – Call Forwarding Variable
Call Return	Repeat Dialing
Call Selector	Speed Calling
Call Tracing	Three-Way Calling
Call Waiting	

SECTION 6 – PACKAGED SERVICES, (CONT'D)

6.1 Residential Service Packages, (Cont'd)

6.1.9 BirchNetSM Basic Plus

(A) BirchNetSM Basic Plus is equipped with:

Dial tone Line
Unlimited Local and Intra-LATA Long Distance
Anonymous Call Rejection, per line
Call Forwarding Busy Line
Call Forwarding Don't Answer
Call Return
Call Return Blocking
Call Selector
Call Tracing
Call Waiting
Caller ID Blocking
Caller ID Deluxe
Calling number delivery blocking, per line
Collect Call Blocking
Distinctive Ringing Service
Call Waiting Deluxe
International Blocking
Remote Access – Call Forwarding Variable
Repeat Dialing
Repeat Dialing Blocking
Speed Calling
Third Party Blocking
Three-Way Calling
900/976 Blocking

(B) Rates and Charges

All zones, all terms, per month: \$63.95 (I)

1. Non-recurring charges are located in Section 7.
2. BirchNetSM Long Distance for BirchNetSM Basic Plus

SECTION 6 – PACKAGED SERVICES, (CONT'D)

6.2 Business Service Packages, (Cont'd)**6.2.4 BirchNetSM Basic Line**

- (A) BirchNet
- SM
- Basic Line is equipped with:

Basic Business Line (1)
 Unlimited Local, Intra-LATA Long Distance
 Caller ID – Name and Number (2) (6)
 Call Waiting (2)
 Hunting

- (B) Rates and Charges

1. Monthly Recurring Charges

<u>Location:</u>	<u>36-Month Term:</u>	<u>24-Month Term:</u>	<u>12-Month Term:</u>
Zone 1	\$48.95 (I)	\$48.95 (I)	\$51.95 (I)
Zone 2	\$53.95 (I)	\$53.95 (I)	\$53.95 (I)
Zone 3	\$51.95 (I)	\$51.95 (I)	\$54.95 (I)
Zone 4	\$57.95 (I)	\$57.95 (I)	\$60.95 (I)

2. Non- Recurring Charges are located in Section 7.

3. Birch
- SM
- Long Distance Rates for BirchNet
- SM
- Basic Line: (5)

<u>BirchSM Long Distance</u>	<u>Rate per minute</u>
All Long Distance Minutes	\$0.049

Long distance is only applicable to standard outbound domestic long distance only, originating from a Customer of the Company to the 50 US States, and US territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, USVI, No. Marianas, American Samoa). All other types of calls, (Operator Assisted Long Distance calls, OS/DA, International, Toll Free, Calling Card, etc.), will be rated at standard rate according to the rate tables established for the calls.

SECTION 6 – PACKAGED SERVICES, (CONT'D)**6.2 Business Service Packages, (Cont'd)****6.2.5 BirchNet EssentialsSM**

(A) BirchNet EssentialsSM is equipped with:

Basic Business Line (1) (5)
 Unlimited Features (2) (3)
 Hunting
 Unlimited Local Intra-LATA Long Distance
 200 Minutes of Domestic Inter-LATA Long Distance (4)

(B) Rates and Charges

1. Monthly Recurring Charges

<u>Location:</u>	<u>Monthly Rates:</u>		
	<u>36-Month Term:</u>	<u>24-Month Term:</u>	<u>12-Month Term:</u>
Zone 1	\$49.95 (I)	\$49.95 (I)	\$52.95 (I)
Zone 2	\$52.95 (I)	\$52.95 (I)	\$55.95 (I)
Zone 3	\$56.95 (I)	\$56.95 (I)	\$56.95 (I)
Zone 4	\$59.95 (I)	\$59.95 (I)	\$62.95 (I)

2. Non- Recurring Charges are located in Section 7.
 3. 200 Minute Long Distance Calling Block for BirchNet EssentialsSM:

<u>Block of Time per Month</u>	<u>Usage Rate per Minute</u>
200 Minutes of Domestic Long Distance	Included in bundle
Additional Minutes	\$.049

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SECTION 6 – PACKAGED SERVICES, (CONT'D)
6.2 Business Service Packages, (Cont'd)**6.2.6 BirchNetSM Basic Plus****(A) BirchNet Basic Plus is equipped with:**

Dial tone Line
 Unlimited Local and Intra-LATA Long Distance
 Anonymous Call Rejection, per line
 Call Block
 Call Forwarding
 Call Forwarding Busy Line
 Call Forwarding Don't Answer
 Call Return
 Call Selector
 Call Tracing
 Call Waiting
 Caller ID
 Caller ID Deluxe
 Calling number delivery blocking, per line
 Distinctive Ringing Service
 Enhanced Caller ID
 Hunting
 Preferred Call Forwarding
 Remote Access – Call Forwarding Variable
 Repeat Dialing
 Selective Class of Call Screening
 Speed Calling
 Three-Way Calling

(B) Rates and Charges

<u>Location:</u>	<u>Monthly Rates:</u>		
	<u>36-Month Term:</u>	<u>24-Month Term:</u>	<u>12-Month Term:</u>
Zone 1	\$48.95 (I)	\$48.95 (I)	\$51.95 (I)
Zone 2	\$53.95 (I)	\$53.95 (I)	\$53.95 (I)
Zone 3	\$51.95 (I)	\$51.95 (I)	\$54.95 (I)
Zone 4	\$57.95 (I)	\$57.95 (I)	\$60.95 (I)

SECTION 8 – DIRECTORY SERVICES, (CONT'D)

8.4 Directory Assistance Services**8.4.1 General**

Customers may obtain assistance in determining telephone numbers by dialing Directory Assistance. The Directory Assistance calls are subject to the charges listed within this tariff.

8.4.2 Requirements

A zero call allowance applies to each business exchange access line.

8.4.3 Directory Assistance Per Call Charge

The following Per Call Charges apply to calls to Directory Assistance in excess of the Monthly Call Allowance:

	Monthly Charge
Business, per call	\$3.99 (I)
Residence, per call	\$3.99 (I)

8.4.4 Directory Assistance Call Completion Per Call Charge

The following Per Call Charge applies to Directory Assistance Call Completion

	Monthly Charge
Business, per call	\$0.30
Residence, per call	\$0.30

Customer Notice
Birch Communications

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