



June 16, 2016
Via Web Filing

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Pierre, SD 57501

**RE: Ionex Communications North, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications
Notification of Additional Fictitious Name**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Ionex Communications North, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications (“Company”) to notify the Commission that the Company will be adding the fictitious name “Primus” for the provision of certain intrastate interexchange services. This filing is made in conjunction with the Company’s acquisition of certain customers of Primus Telecommunications, Inc. as detailed in the Notification of Transfer of Customers submitted to the Commission on February 18, 2016, Informational Filing TC49.

Included with this filing is evidence of the registration of the fictitious name with the South Dakota Secretary of State and a copy of the customer notice. This new fictitious name is in addition to the Company’s existing fictitious name.

Any questions you may have regarding this filing should be directed to my attention at 407-740-3001 or via email to tforte@tminc.com. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas M. Forte

Thomas M. Forte
Consultant to Ionex Communications North, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications

cc: A. Hoke – Birch
Angela Collins – Cahill, Gordon & Reindel LLP
file: Birch - South Dakota
tms: SDx1601

Enclosures
TF/sp

Fictitious Business Name Registration Receipt from the Central Filing System of the Secretary of State's Office.

The described business hereby certifies that they will engage in, conduct, or operate a business under the fictitious name of:

Primus

Owner Name

Ionex Communications North, Inc.

Residence Address

320 Interstate North Pkwy SE
Atlanta Georgia 30339

Post Office Address

That the address where the main office of such business is to be maintained is:
320 Interstate North Pkwy SE Atlanta Georgia 30339

Receipt Number: 402357

Original Registration Date: 4/7/2016

Filed By: Christopher Bunce

Amount Paid: \$10.00

Finished

Print This Page for Confirmation and Details

Amendment: An amendment should be filed when some substantive item about the business changes such as change in ownership, business name change, address change, etc. When an amendment is done it automatically renews the business registration information and extends the expiration date by making it 5 years from the amendment date.

Renewal: A renewal needs to be filed every 5 years if no amendments are made to the business.



IMPORTANT NOTICE AND CLARIFICATION
REGARDING A CHANGE IN YOUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Dear Customer,

To clarify information in the notice you received approximately a week ago, we are sending this second notice. Birch Communications (“Birch”) and Primus Telecommunications, Inc. (“Primus”) are pleased to announce that Birch is acquiring Primus’ local telephone and long distance telephone customers, as well as certain other customers receiving additional types of services from Primus. To clarify from the previous notice, Birch will continue to do business and communicate with you under the Primus brand for your residential services.

We’ve included the remaining information from the previous note again just for consistency:

Subject to approval by the Federal Communications Commission and state regulators as necessary, Birch will replace Primus as your current telecommunications service provider on or after April 28, 2016 (the “Transfer Date”). As a result of this transaction, Birch will assume responsibility for all wireline services previously provided to you by Primus. Birch is excited about the opportunity to provide your telecommunications service(s) and looks forward to a long and mutually rewarding business relationship.

Please rest assured, the transition will have little or no impact on your current services, nor will there be any interruption of your service. The agreement between Birch and Primus has been structured so that the transfer of service will be virtually seamless. There, however, may be other changes to your service plan based on Birch’s unique billing systems (e.g., customers currently utilizing a message or measured local service plan may be switched to a flat rate plan). In those cases, Birch will transition you in a neutral manner **with no increase to your regular monthly recurring charges**. You will retain all other service rates, features, terms, and conditions of service and your telephone number. Birch will not impose any charges for the transfer of your services to Birch and **no action is required from you to continue your telecommunications service(s) with Birch**. You will receive your first billing statement from Birch starting with your June 2016 or July 2016 bill. As in the past, you are responsible for paying all bills rendered to you by Primus during the transition of service.¹

You do have the right to select a different carrier for your telecommunications service(s). If you choose to switch to an alternate carrier for services, you may incur a fee

¹ Those customers interested in setting up online payments will be pleased to know Birch offers online payments and account updates.

from that alternate carrier for the transfer of services to that alternate carrier. If you select a local telephone service provider other than Birch, you should also contact your current long distance provider to ensure that your current long distance plan is not changed. Please note that if you are a customer of Primus on the Transfer Date as set forth above, your account will automatically be transferred to Birch. Please note that when your service is transferred to Birch, any preferred carrier “freeze” you have placed on your existing telephone lines to prevent unauthorized transfer of your services to another carrier will be over-ridden for purposes of this transaction and will need to be reinstated by you by contacting Birch after the transfer is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this transaction or questions about your service or billing prior to the Transfer Date set forth above, you should contact Primus at **1-888-877-4687**.

If you have any questions regarding this transaction, or questions about your service or billing after the Transfer Date set forth above, you should contact Birch at **1-888-772-4724**.²

Primus thanks you for your business and Birch looks forward to providing you with quality service for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Primus Telecommunications, Inc. and
Birch Communications

² **About Birch Communications** - Birch Communications, Inc. is a leading communications, network, cloud and IT solutions provider celebrating 20 years in business (1996-2016). Recognized for exceptional customer experience, Birch delivers cost-effective solutions that assist small, mid-sized, enterprise and wholesale businesses to increase their productivity. Its industry-leading product portfolio is available nationwide and includes Metro-Fiber, Metro-Ethernet, unified communications (UC), hosted phone systems, hosted data centers, and hosted file storage services.