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November 29, 2017

Via Electronic Filing

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

Re: Birch Communications, Inc. Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Birch Communications, Inc. (“Birch”), by its attorneys, respectfully submits its Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“Application”).

As explained in the Application, Birch respectfully requests that the Commission treat **Attachment E** as confidential trade secret information pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:41, to be reviewed by Commission staff only in the performance of their governmental duties, and not released to the public. The financial documents in **Attachment E** are stamped “CONFIDENTIAL,” and filed separately.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela F. Collins
Counsel for Birch Communications, Inc.

Enclosures