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December 5, 2017

**Notice of  
Birch Communications, Inc.  
Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity  
to Provide Facilities Based Local Exchange Services**

Dear South Dakota Local Exchange Carrier:

In accordance with SDCL § 49-31-70 and ARSD 20:10:32:04, please be advised that on November 29, 2017, Birch Communications, Inc. (“Birch”) submitted an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Facilities Based Local Exchange Services (“Application”) with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”).

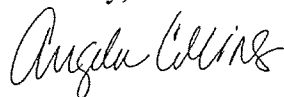
Specifically, Birch seeks certification to provide facilities-based local exchange telecommunications services in the territories of all Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (“ILECs”) currently operating in the state. However, Birch is not seeking approval to provide services in areas of South Dakota designated as rural telephone service areas.

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:04, each certified local exchange carrier operating within Birch’s proposed service area may seek intervener status in any Commission proceeding held on the Application. Such requests for intervention need not meet the requirements of petitions to intervene set forth in ARSD 20:10:01 *et seq.*

Birch intends to provide service as soon as practicable upon approval of its Application.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Angela F. Collins  
Counsel to Birch Communications, Inc.