



August 16, 2016
Via Web Filing

Ms. Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk
South Carolina Public Service Commission
101 Executive Center Dr.
Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

**RE: Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications
Revision for SC P.S.C. No. 1 (Local)**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Enclosed for filing please find the above referenced tariff filing submitted on behalf of Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications (“Company”). This filing, made pursuant to the 2015 FCC Lifeline Reform Ruling, FCC-15-71A1-3, removes Lifeline Service from the tariff. All Customers have been notified of this change via a bill message or separate mailing, a copy of which is included with this filing. The Company respectfully requests an effective date of August 21, 2016 for this tariff revision.

The following tariff pages are included:

2 nd Revised Sheet 49.8	Deletes Lifeline Reference
1 st Revised Sheet 49.9	Deletes Lifeline Reference
1 st Revised Sheet 49.10	Deletes Lifeline Reference
4 th Revised Sheet 56.8	Deletes Lifeline Service

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,

/s/ Carey Roesel

Carey Roesel
Consultant to Birch Telecom of the South, Inc.
d/b/a Birch Communications

cc: S. Fowler- Birch
Executive Director, SC Public Service Commission (via Efile)
file: Birch - South Carolina - Local
tms: SC11601

Enclosures
CR/sp

**Birch Communications
Cancellation of Lifeline
Customer Notice**

For postpaid customers the language below was provided as a page 2 bill notice. For prepaid customers the language below was mailed to them as a notice, separate from their bill reminder.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING YOUR LIFELINE DISCOUNT

In accordance with the 2015 FCC Lifeline Reform Ruling FCC-15-71A1-3 competitive carriers, such as Birch, that do not have direct authority from the FCC (non-ETC Resellers) are no longer allowed to provide federal Lifeline service. As such your Lifeline discount will be removed from your account effective with your August billing. Birch values you as a customer and would like to remain your service provider. However, if you feel it is necessary to find another Lifeline provider, you are welcome to do so and may find a list of providers in your local phone service directory or on your state's Public Service Commission website. For any questions you can contact us at the customer service number located on your statement.

4. SERVICES AND MAXIMUM RATES (continued)

4.2 General Exchange Services (continued)

4.2.17 CLEARTEL SERVICES (continued)

4.2.17.3 Prepaid Services

A. Tempo Value Line

1. Tempo Value Line is equipped with:

Basic Residential Line

2. Monthly Recurring Charges:

	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Maximum Rate</u>
Per Line	\$37.95	\$80.00

3. This product was formerly known as the following Cleartel product name:

<u>Former Cleartel Product Name</u> SC Basic Service Residential Basic
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4. Rules & Regulations:

- Miscellaneous Service Charges will apply – see Section 4.2.17.5 of this tariff.
- Long Distance is unavailable with this product. All Long Distance will be blocked upon setup of this service.
- Features can be purchased at “a la carte” rates – see Section 4.2.18 of this tariff. Features cannot be added/deleted during the prepaid month. Feature changes can only be submitted upon payment of the next prepaid month.
- The availability of certain features depends on ILEC feature availability.
- Caller ID Customers must provide and connect their own compatible CPE.
- Product may not be available in all CLLIs.
- An additional charge will apply when adding Birch Unified Messaging or Birch Voicemail to NOW Value Line. There is a maximum of 20 extensions per voicemail box.
- Inside Wire Maintenance can be added with this product, but only at time of install.
- There is no pro-ration or de-ration with prepay product, features and services.
- Once payment is made, it will not be refunded if disconnected before the end of the month paid.

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4. SERVICES AND MAXIMUM RATES (continued)

4.2 General Exchange Services (continued)

4.2.17 CLEARTEL SERVICES (continued)

4.2.17.3 NOW Communications Prepaid Services (continued)

B. NOW Basic

1. NOW Basic is equipped with:

Basic Residential Line
Caller ID Deluxe
Call Waiting

2. Monthly Recurring Charges:

	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Maximum Rate</u>
Per Line	\$42.95	\$80.00

3. This product was formerly known as the following Cleartel product names:

<u>Former Cleartel Product Name</u>
Residential Enhanced
SC Z1 Residential Basic Plus Prepaid
SC Z3 Residential Basic Plus Prepaid

(D)

4. Rules & Regulations:

- Miscellaneous Service Charges will apply – see Section 4.2.17.5 of this tariff.
- Long Distance is unavailable with this product. All Long Distance will be blocked upon setup of this service. (1)
- Declining free features does not reduce the package rate.
- Additional features can be purchased at “a la carte” rates – see Section 4.2.18 of this tariff. Features cannot be added/deleted during the prepaid month. Feature changes can only be submitted upon payment of the next prepaid month.
- The availability of certain features depends on ILEC feature availability.
- Caller ID Customers must provide and connect their own compatible CPE.
- Product may not be available in all CLLIs.
- An additional charge will apply when adding Birch Unified Messaging or Birch Voicemail to NOW Basic. There is a maximum of 20 extensions per voicemail box.
- IW Maintenance can be added with this product, but only at time of install.
- There is no pro-ration or de-ration with prepay product, features and services.
- Once payment is made, it will not be refunded if disconnected before the end of the month paid.

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(1) Effective November 11, 2009, NOW Basic customers will be given an option to purchase a block of LD minutes. See section 4.2.17.4 below.

4. SERVICES AND MAXIMUM RATES (continued)

4.2 General Exchange Services (continued)4.2.17 CLEARTEL SERVICES (continued)

4.2.17.3 NOW Communications Prepaid Services (continued)

C. NOW Essentials

1. NOW Essentials is equipped with:

Basic Residential Line
 Unlimited Features
 2,000 Free Minutes of Inter-LATA Long Distance

2. Monthly Recurring Charges:

	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Maximum Rate</u>
Per Line	\$74.95	\$125.00

3. This product was formerly known as the following Cleartel product name:

<u>Former Cleartel Product Name</u> Residential Unlimited
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4. Rules & Regulations:

- Miscellaneous Service Charges will apply – see Section 4.2.17.5 of this tariff.
- Customer will be given 2,000 free minutes of Long Distance with this service. The free minutes include Intra-LATA, Intra-State and Inter-State toll. Customer cannot exceed the 2,000 minutes. Long Distance will be unavailable after the allotted 2,000 minute block, until the service is renewed the following month.
- Declining free features does not reduce the package rate.
- Features cannot be added/deleted during the prepaid month. Feature changes can only be submitted upon payment of the next prepaid month.
- The availability of certain features depends on ILEC feature availability.
- Caller ID Customers must provide and connect their own compatible CPE.
- Product may not be available in all CLLIs.
- An additional charge will apply when adding Birch Unified Messaging or Birch Voicemail to NOW Essentials. There is a maximum of 20 extensions per voicemail box.
- Inside Wire Maintenance can be added with this product, but only at time of install.
- There is no pro-ration or de-ration with prepay product, features and services.
- Once payment is made, it will not be refunded if disconnected before the end of the month paid.

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