

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) Rules, the Commission hereby gives notice of the Application of Birch Communications, Inc. (Birch or the Company) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to provide local exchange and interexchange telecommunication services within the State of Wyoming, as more fully described herein.

Birch is a telecommunications company as defined by Wyo. Stat. § 37-15-103(a)(xi), subject to the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to Wyo. Stat. § 37-15-401.

Birch is a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Georgia with its principal place of business located in Atlanta, Georgia. The Company represents it possesses all of the requisite approvals and authorities to transact business as a corporation within Wyoming and received its Certificate of Authority from the State of Wyoming on December 12, 2017.

On November 22, 2017, Birch filed its Application seeking certificate authority to provide competitive local exchange and intrastate interexchange telecommunications services throughout the State of Wyoming. On December 13, 2017, Birch supplemented its Application with its Certificate of Authority to do business in Wyoming. Birch states it seeks a CPCN in connection with a corporate reorganization and restructuring whereby Birch will serve business customers located in Wyoming and Birch's currently certificated affiliate, Ionex Communications North, Inc., will serve consumer and single-line business customers located in Wyoming. Birch states that at this time, it will not own any switching or other facilities in Wyoming, but will utilize facilities and switches located in other portions of its operating service territory. Birch states it will utilize a mix of its own facilities, unbundled network elements (UNEs) or UNE-replacement services from incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) and other ILEC-provided services to provide local exchange and interexchange services in Wyoming. Birch's basic voice offering includes unlimited local calling, unlimited intrastate long distance, caller ID and call waiting. Birch will also provide nationwide long distance calling that can be bundled with the basic voice offering. Birch states that it holds interconnection agreements and commercial agreements with various ILECs that govern other portions of its operating territory. Birch's affiliate, Ionex Communications North, Inc., holds interconnection agreements with CenturyLink. The Company expects to utilize existing agreements, or enter into new agreements as necessary.

In support of its Application, Birch asserts it has sufficient technical, financial, and managerial resources to provide safe, adequate and reliable local exchange telecommunications services within Wyoming, as provided by Wyo. Stat. § 37-15-201(b). The Company included with its Application summaries of its key management personnel setting forth their business and telecommunications experience, as well as financial documents supporting its financial ability to provide the proposed services.

Birch's Application is on file with the Commission at its offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and may be inspected by any interested persons during regular business hours.

Anyone desiring to intervene as a party, file a statement, comment, or protest or request a hearing in this matter must do so by filing with the Commission, in writing, on or before March 1,

2018. Please reference Docket No. 70253-1-TA-17 (Record No. 14902) in your correspondence. The petition shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing, and the position and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding.

If you wish to intervene in this matter and/or request a public hearing that you will attend and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 to make arrangements. Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay at 711.

Dated: February 1, 2018.