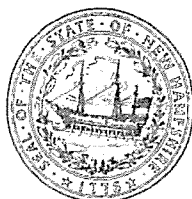


THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHAIRMAN  
Amy L. Ignatius

COMMISSIONERS  
Michael D. Harrington  
Robert R. Scott

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Debra A. Howland



TDD Access: Relay NH  
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX (603) 271-3878

Website:  
[www.puc.nh.gov](http://www.puc.nh.gov)

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

February 12, 2013

Tara Jackson  
2300 Main Street, Suite 340  
Kansas City, MO 64108

RE: DT 13-009: Registration of Birch Communications of the Northeast, Inc. as a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC)

Dear Ms. Jackson:

The application filed by Birch Communications of the Northeast, Inc. (Birch) to provide CLEC service in New Hampshire has been approved, as the accompanying certificate attests. Birch's registration number is CL-02-002-13.

As Birch conducts business in New Hampshire, the Commission expects the company to comply with all administrative rules and provide the highest level of customer service. Under its current rules, the Commission requires yearly updates of the company's progress which you will provide by filing NH Puc Forms CLEC 1 through 5 and CLEC-40 by March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Upon attaining its first retail customer, Birch must file with the Telecommunications Division NH Puc Form CLEC-12, *Initiation of Operations*. All such CLEC forms are available at our web site: [www.puc.nh.gov](http://www.puc.nh.gov). The Commission also requires notification from Birch of address changes, and of restructuring, acquisitions, or other major events regarding provision of services as outlined in Commission rules.

Please be aware that, although changes in New Hampshire telecommunications law became effective on August 10, 2012, revised forms will not be available until the Commission amends its rules. This rulemaking process will not be completed until late 2013. For your reference, the bill revising telecommunications laws can be reviewed at this location:  
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2012/SB0048.pdf>.

Please refer to CL 02-002-13 in any future correspondence. If you or Birch have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me in the Telecommunications Division at (603) 271-2431.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Ladam".

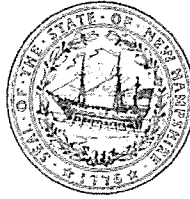
Michael Ladam  
Assistant Director, Telecommunications

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**AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**BIRCH COMMUNICATIONS OF THE  
NORTHEAST, INC.**

is authorized to provide local exchange services in the FairPoint Communications service territory in the State of New Hampshire.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debra A. Howland", written over a horizontal line.

Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director

**Date: February 12, 2013**

**Authorization No. CL 02-002-13**

This authorization is non-transferable  
Pursuant to Puc 451.01(g)