

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

January 13, 2016

IN RE:

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF AN
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
UNITED TELEPHONE SOUTHEAST LLC D/B/A
CENTURYLINK AND BIRCH TELECOM OF THE
SOUTH, INC. D/B/A BIRCH COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE SOUTH**

**DOCKET NO.
15-00019**

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

This Interconnection Agreement (the "Agreement") negotiated between United Telephone Southeast LLC d/b/a CenturyLink and Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications of the South ("Birch") was filed with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority" or "TRA") on February 6, 2015.¹ The Agreement was negotiated pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252. The Agreement has been reviewed, and no portion discriminates against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the Agreement.

A Notice was filed by the Authority on December 29, 2015 advising that the Agreement would be deemed approved by the Authority within ten business days of the filing of the Notice unless an objection to the Agreement was filed with the Authority. No objection to the Agreement has been received by the Authority.

Pursuant to the Notice and absent any objection having been filed with the Authority, the Agreement is approved effective as of January 12, 2016.

ATTEST:



Earl R. Taylor, Executive Director

¹ At the time of this filing, Birch's certification with the Tennessee Secretary of State was revoked, and the TRA could not approve the Agreement. On November 5, 2015, Birch's certification was reinstated by the Tennessee Secretary of State.