

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications)	
Change of Company Name to Birch Telecom of Missouri, LLC)	
d/b/a Birch Communications, LLC)	<u>File No. TN-2018-0284</u>

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”), through the undersigned counsel, and hereby respectfully submits this *Staff Recommendation*.

1. On April 10, 2018, the above-referenced Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications (“Company”) filed a notice of a name change along with updated tariff sheets reflecting the new name. The Company filed all requisite documentation.

2. Rule 4 CSR 240-28.030(9) establishes filing requirements for certificated company name changes; in lieu of a Memorandum, Staff herein states that the Company has complied with the rule.

3. The Company is currently delinquent on several of its Annual Report filings, which are required to be filed with the Commission. The Company filed its 2015 Annual Report, but it had a deficiency which was never remedied. The Company did not file the required 2016 or 2017 Annual Reports. Staff would ask that the Commission order the Company to remedy this situation in a timely manner, or Staff will file a separate complaint case to address this issue.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission recognize the name change of Birch Telecom of Missouri, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications to

Birch Telecom of Missouri, LLC d/b/a Birch Communications, LLC; order Birch Communications, LLC, to remedy its delinquent filings; and grant such other and further relief as it finds just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Whitney Payne

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 25th day of April, 2018, to all counsel of record.

/s/Whitney Payne