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RECORDS AND REPORTING

January 5, 2001

VIA EXPRESS MAIL

Blanca S. Bayo'
Director, Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
Betty Easley Conference Center
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 960786-TL - Consideration of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s entry into interLATA services pursuant to Section 271 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Ms. Bayo':

Enclosed please find for filing the original and fifteen (15) copies of the Petition to Intervene of Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. in the above-captioned docket. Also enclosed is an extra copy of this letter. Please date-stamp and return in the enclosed self-addressed, postage prepaid envelope.

Thank you for your assistance with this filing. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-676-5262.

Sincerely yours,

Monica M. Barone
Director, State Regulation
Birch Telecom of the South, Inc.

- APP _____
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- CTR _____
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- OPC _____
- PAI _____
- RGO _____
- SEC 1
- SER _____
- OTH Hay

Enclosure (1)
cc: Beth Keating
Parties of Record

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DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

00365 JAN-96

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

In re: Consideration of BellSouth Telecommunications,
Inc.'s entry into interLATA services pursuant
to Section 271 of the Federal Telecommunications
Act of 1996

Docket No. 960786-TL

Filed: January 5, 2001

PETITION TO INTERVENE
OF
BIRCH TELECOM OF THE SOUTH, INC.

COMES NOW Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. ("Birch") and, pursuant to Rule 25-22.039, Florida Administration Code, files this Petition to Intervene with the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") in the above-referenced docket. Birch respectfully requests the Commission to grant this Petition, designating Birch as a party of record and affording it all applicable rights under Florida law and the rules and regulations of this Commission. In support thereof, Birch respectfully shows as follows:

1. Petitioner's full name and principle place of business are:

Birch Telecom of the South, Inc.
2020 Baltimore Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64108

2. All pleadings, orders, notices and other correspondence with respect to this docket should be addressed to:

Monica M. Barone
Director, State Regulation
Birch Telecom of the South, Inc.
8601 Six Forks Road
Suite 463
Raleigh, NC 27516
(919) 676-5262

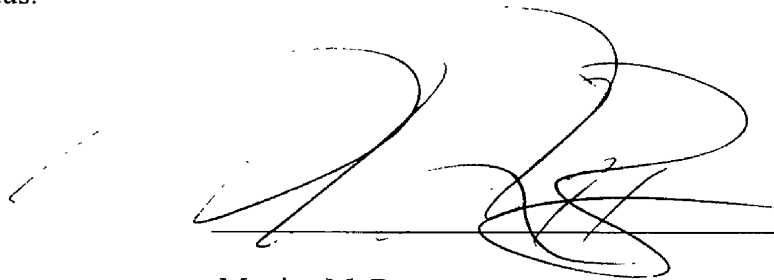
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00365 JAN-98

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

3. Birch is a telecommunications company that has been duly certified by the commission as an alternative local exchange telecommunications company (“ALEC”) and an interexchange company (“IXC”) in Florida. As such, Birch is subject to the rules, regulations and orders of the Commission, and such rules, regulations and orders impact Birch’s ability to provide local exchange telecommunications service and intrastate interexchange telecommunications service.
4. As an ALEC who desires to enter the Florida market, Birch is entitled to access and interconnection as proscribed in Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act. As such, Birch’s substantial interests will be affected by any action that the Commission takes in this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, Birch requests that it be permitted to intervene in this proceeding and that it be afforded full party status.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monica M. Barone', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Monica M. Barone
Director, State Regulation
Birch Telecom of the South, Inc.
8601 Six Forks Road
Suite 463
Raleigh, NC 27516
(919) 676-5262
(919) 676-5295 fax

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
DOCKET NO. 960786-TL

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was furnished via

U.S. Mail to the following parties of record on this the 5th day of January 2001:

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2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
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Bettye Willis
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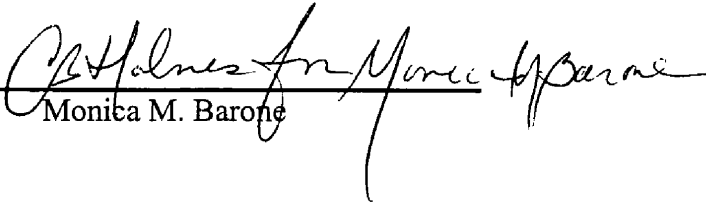
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Monica M. Barone