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March 5, 2013

Via Federal Express

Gary Widerburg
Commission Administrator
Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

**Re: Application of Ionex Communications North, Inc. dba Birch
Communications for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to
provide local telecommunications service in Utah**

Dear Mr. Widerburg,

Ionex Communications North, Inc. dba Birch Communications (the "Applicant") hereby encloses an original and five (5) copies of the **PUBLIC** version of its Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide local telecommunications service in Utah ("Application"). The enclosed Application also includes **CONFIDENTIAL** information. Pursuant to Rules R746-100-3 and R746-100-16 of the Utah Administrative Code, the **CONFIDENTIAL** information submitted as required is marked "Confidential" and enclosed on yellow paper and in an envelope marked "Confidential – Subject to Utah Rule R746-100-16."

The Applicant respectfully requests that the confidential financial information enclosed in the envelope marked "Confidential" be treated as confidential because the information provided is proprietary, sensitive, financial, operational, and commercial information that is not publicly available and, if released, could be used by competitors to cause competitive harm. The potential harm to the Applicant is substantial, and the need for proprietary protection of this information outweighs any need for public disclosure at this time. As such, the confidential information should be afforded protection from public inspection.

Please date stamp the extra copy of the Application and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela F. Collins

Counsel for Ionex Communications North,
Inc. dba Birch Communications

Enclosures