

**Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement
By and Between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
and BirchTelecom of the South, Inc.
d/b/a Birch Telecom d/b/a Birch
Dated July 14, 2000**

This Agreement refers to the Interconnection Agreement (“the Agreement”) entered into by Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. d/b/a Birch Telecom d/b/a Birch (“Birch”) and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (“BellSouth”) on July 14, 2000. This Amendment (“Amendment”) is made by and between Birch and BellSouth and shall be deemed effective on the date executed by Birch and BellSouth.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual provisions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Birch and BellSouth (individually, a “Party” and collectively, the “Parties”) hereby covenant and agree as follows:

1. The Parties hereby mutually agree to delete in its entirety the first paragraph of the General Terms and Conditions of the Interconnection Agreement and replace it with the following:

THIS AGREEMENT is made by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., (“BellSouth”), a Georgia corporation, and Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. d/b/a Birch Telecom d/b/a Birch (“Birch”), a Delaware corporation, and shall be deemed effective as of the date of signatures by both parties. This Agreement may refer to either BellSouth or Birch or both as a “Party” or “Parties.”

2. All of the other provisions of the Interconnection Agreement shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

3. Either or both of the Parties are authorized to submit this Amendment to the appropriate State Public Service Commissions or other Regulatory Agencies for approval subject to Section 252 (e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

4. For electronic filing purposes in the State of Louisiana, the CLEC Louisiana Certification Number is required and must be provided by Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. prior to filing of the Agreement. The CLEC Louisiana Certification Number for Birch Telecom of the South, Inc is TSP00345.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Amendment to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives on the date indicated below.

BirchTelecom of the South, Inc. d/b/a Birch Telecom d/b/a Birch	BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
On File	On File
_____ Signature John Ivanuska	_____ Signature Patrick C. Finlen
_____ Name VP Industry Relations	_____ Name Managing Director
_____ Title 2/12/01	_____ Title 02/27/01
_____ Date	_____ Date