

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the matter of the application of Birch)	Case No.16-0349-TP-ATR
Telecom of the Great Lakes, Inc. dba Birch)	
Communications to Transfer Customers of)	
Primus Telecommunications, Inc.)	

**REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION
SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

On February 19, 2016, Primus Telecommunications, Inc. (Primus) and Birch Telecom of the Great Lakes, Inc. (Birch, and collectively, the Applicants) filed an application seeking approval of a transaction transferring property, plant, or business. In this filing, the Applicants are requesting that the Commission approve the transaction, which will transfer Ohio long-distance Primus customers to Birch.

Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-29(B)(1)(b), a local exchange carrier (LEC) offering basic local exchange service (BLES) must apply for approval for any change in name. Also, the Applicant must update its tariff cover sheets and provide customer notice, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-07, if the change is not transparent to customers. The Applicants provided a draft customer notice that will be sent at least fifteen days before the transaction closes.

The Staff has reviewed all documents and exhibits filed with this application and has determined that the Applicant has complied with the requirements under Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-29. As such, Staff recommends that this application be automatically approved with an effective date of March 22, 2016.

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in

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Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Ms. Elizabeth C Stevens
on behalf of PUCO Staff