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**State of Vermont
Public Utility Commission**

MEMORANDUM

To: Parties in PUC Case Number 17-4999-INV

From: John C. Gerhard, Hearing Officer 

Re: Request for Comments

Date: March 24, 2020

On March 16, 2020, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) a proposed draft comprehensive rule covering billing, arrearages, collections, disconnections, and customer information for electric, natural gas, and water utilities. The proposed draft comprehensive rule merges most aspects of existing Commission Rules 3.200, 3.300, and 3.400, while also updating those Rules.

The Commission now asks participants in this proceeding to file comments on the Department’s proposed draft comprehensive rule. Given the current Coronavirus-related state of emergency in Vermont, I propose providing an extensive amount of time during which participants can review and comment upon the Department’s March 16, 2020, filing.

Comments on the Department’s filing should be filed with the Commission **by no later than May 5, 2020**.

Furthermore, should staffing or other issues make the May 5, 2020, due date unmanageable, participants should feel free to petition the Commission for additional time to file comments associated with this proceeding.

Parties are simply reminded that the Commission asks that requests for extensions be filed no less than three days before the associated deadline to which the extension request refers.

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