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**State of Vermont  
Public Utility Commission**

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Parties in PUC Case Number 20-0703-PET  
From: Judith C. Whitney, Clerk of the Commission *JCW*  
Re: Notice of Technical Correction  
Date: May 29, 2020

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On May 28, 2020, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) issued its Order Extending Moratorium & Requesting Utility Plans in this proceeding.

Please be advised that the following technical corrections have been made to that order:

- On page 1, under the first paragraph under the “Extension” section, the name “Verizon,” was added between the names Consolidated Communications of Vermont (“Consolidated”) and Green Mountain Power Corporation (“GMP”).
- On Page 2, in the third full paragraph, line 3, the words “and Verizon” were added after the word “Consolidated.”
- On page 2, footnote 5, the following language has been added: “Letter from Alexander W. Moore, Associate General Counsel for Verizon, to Judith C. Whitney, Clerk of the Commission, filed on 5/22/2020, at 4.”

Attached are replacement pages for those pages changed by this technical correction.

Our apologies for any confusion this may have caused.

Thank you.

Attachment: (2)

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 20-0703-PET

|                                                                                                               |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Vermont Legal Aid request for moratorium on utility and telecommunications shutoffs during State of Emergency |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

Order entered: 05/28/2020

**ORDER EXTENDING MORATORIUM  
AND REQUESTING UTILITY PLANS**

This proceeding concerns a petition from Vermont Legal Aid to the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) requesting a halt to involuntary utility disconnections during the state of emergency in Vermont resulting from the global COVID-19 pandemic.

By Orders issued on March 18 and 27, 2020, and April 23, 2020, the Commission established a temporary moratorium on certain utility disconnections through May 31, 2020.

On May 15, 2020, the Commission issued an Order seeking comments on a proposal to extend the moratorium until July 31, 2020.

In today’s order, we extend the moratorium until July 31, 2020, and direct utilities to file post-moratorium plans with the Commission.

**I. EXTENSION**

Comments in reply to the Commission’s May 15, 2020, Order were filed by Burlington Electric Department (“BED”), Vermont Legal Aid, Washington Electric Cooperative (“WEC”), Vermont Electric Cooperative (“VEC”), Vermont Gas Systems (“VGS”), a group of eight rural local exchange carriers (“the Eight RLECs”),<sup>1</sup> the Department of Public Service (“Department”), Consolidated Communications of Vermont (“Consolidated”), Verizon, Green Mountain Power Corporation (“GMP”), and the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (“VPPSA”).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Eight RLECs are Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company, Inc.; Shoreham Telephone LLC; Ludlow Telephone Company; Vermont Telephone Company, Inc.; Franklin Telephone Company; Perkinsville Telephone Company; Topsham Telephone Company; and Northfield Telephone Company.

<sup>2</sup> VPPSA’s members include Barton Village, Inc.; Village of Enosburg Falls Inc.; Town of Hardwick Electric Department; Village of Jacksonville; Village of Johnson, Inc.; Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department; Village of Lyndonville Electric Department; Village of Morrisville Water & Light Department; Town of Northfield Electric Department; Incorporated Village of Orleans; and Swanton Village, Inc.

The following participants either supported or did not object to extending the moratorium until July 31, 2020: BED, Vermont Legal Aid, WEC, VEC, VGS, GMP, and the Department.

VPPSA stated that it “is not feasible to extend the blanket moratorium indefinitely and the State should now consider the appropriate path forward for returning to the standard approach to handling non-payments.”<sup>3</sup>

The Eight RLECs commented that they “do not support the Commission’s proposal to extend the current disconnection moratorium to July 31, 2020, and instead would support an extension through June 30, 2020.”<sup>4</sup> Consolidated and Verizon also raised concerns with extending the deadline without a mechanism in place to address unpaid overdue balances.<sup>5</sup>

Having considered the Governor’s extension of the state of emergency and having reviewed all the comments we received, we determine that an extension of the temporary moratorium until July 31, 2020, is appropriate and necessary. We do not believe a shorter extension would provide sufficient time to put in place appropriate procedures for reinstating routine service-disconnection activities. Pursuant to Section 209(a)(3) of Title 30 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and Commission Rule 2.406(B), we extend the temporary moratorium on involuntary utility service disconnections to July 31, 2020, subject to future revisions should circumstances make such revisions advisable.

## **II. REQUEST FOR UTILITY PLANS**

The Commission recognizes that utilities have been affected differently by the pandemic and the disconnection moratorium. It is unclear to us at this time whether a “one-size-fits-all” approach would be appropriate for how to reinstate routine service-disconnection activities. In addition, because the situation is evolving, each utility has the most up-to-date information on its individual circumstances. Therefore, we direct each utility to file a concrete and detailed plan with the Commission on how, when the moratorium is lifted, it proposes to reinstate routine

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<sup>3</sup> Letter from Melissa Bailey, Manager of Government and Member Relations for VPPSA, to Judith C. Whitney, Clerk of the Commission, filed on 5/22/2020, at 2.

<sup>4</sup> Letter from Paul J. Phillips, Esq., to Judith C. Whitney, Clerk of the Commission, filed on 5/22, 2020, at 1.

<sup>5</sup> Letter from Jeffrey B. Austin, Director of Government Relations for Consolidated, to Judith C. Whitney, Clerk of the Commission, filed on 5/22/2020, at 1; Letter from Alexander W. Moore, Associate General Counsel for Verizon, to Judith C. Whitney, Clerk of the Commission, filed on 5/22/2020, at 4.

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