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**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Docket No. 20-0703-PET

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

COMMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT SERVICE

On March 16, 2020, Vermont Legal Aid filed a request with the Commission asking that it require the electric and gas utilities to refrain from terminating service of customers as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

I write to inform the Commission that yesterday the Commissioner of the Department sent a communication to the Vermont electric distribution utilities and Vermont Gas Systems, Inc., requesting a response as to how each utility intends to handle disconnections during the current emergency situation. It was requested that the Department receive answers by close of business today. That said, as of this writing, the overwhelming majority of the utilities have responded that they have ceased disconnections at this time.

The Department will compile the responses and file these with the Commission by the end of this week. We believe having this information will provide a more informed position from which it can be determined what further action, if any, is required in the immediate future. The Department further intends to provide a recommendation to the Commission as to further action regarding disconnections.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this 17th day of March, 2020.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

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