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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)

**MOTION TO EXTEND THE TEMPORARY MORATORIUM TO NON-RESIDENTIAL
CUSTOMERS AND JURISDICTIONAL WATER COMPANIES**

On March 18, 2020, the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) issued its *Order Granting Temporary Moratorium on Involuntary Natural Gas, Electric, and Telecommunications Service Disconnections* (“Moratorium Order”). In the Moratorium Order the Commission established a deadline of March 25, 2020 for comments as to further process.

The Department has inquired of the electric utilities and telecommunications providers as to whether they have suspended disconnections for non-residential customers. Overwhelmingly, the companies have reported to the Department that they have voluntarily suspended disconnections for non-residential customers as well. In the interest of establishing uniformity and clarity across the board for non-residential customers in Vermont, the Department respectfully asks that the Commission take the step of formally extending the Moratorium to cover non-residential public service utility customers as well.

As with electric and telecommunications services, continued assured access to safe and reliable water service is essential to public health and safety. Accordingly, ratepayers – residential and non-residential alike – should be protected from water service disconnection as well during the COVID-19 emergency.

Dated this 23rd day of March, 2020.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

By: /s/ James H. Porter
James H. Porter, Director for Public Advocacy
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620
(802) 828-4003
james.porter@vermont.gov