



Filed VIA E-PUC

March 23, 2020

VERMONT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
People's United Bank Building, 4th Floor
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Docket No. 20-0703-PET - Vermont Legal Aid request for moratorium on Utility and telecommunications shutoffs during State of Emergency

Dear Commission:

On March 18, 2020 the Public Utility Commission ("Commission") issued its *Order Granting Temporary Moratorium on Involuntary Natural Gas, Electric and Telecommunications Service Disconnections*. The Order set March 25, 2020 as the deadline for comments.

Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. ("VGS") fully supports the Commission's Order and is confirming that it has already implemented the following:

1. Suspension of collection-related activity (including disconnections) for *all* retail customers. This covers all our customers except CNG-wholesale providers.
2. Suspension of late fees which would otherwise have only applied to commercial and industrial customers. VGS' residential customers are not subject to late fees.

These actions are in place until April 30 and we are prepared to revisit extending that date depending on circumstances at that time. It is our plan to ensure these safeguards are in place for as long as Vermont's emergency declaration lasts -or at least through April 30 as the Commission has already ordered - if we are fortunate enough to have this pandemic be short lived. We are also prepared to ensure we have a glide path for our customers to regain their financial footing when this crisis ends.

VGS requests that the Commission take whatever additional action is required, if any, to implement any of these steps and greatly appreciates the leadership of the Commission and Department on these matters.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eileen Simollardes', is written in a cursive style.

Eileen Simollardes
Vice President Regulatory Affairs