

March 25, 2020

Ms. Judith C. Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street, Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620

Case No. 20-0703-PET - Vermont Legal Aid request for moratorium on utility and telecommunications shutoffs during State of Emergency

Dear Ms. Whitney:

On March 18, 2020, the Public Utility Commission ("Commission") issued an Order Granting Temporary Moratorium on Involuntary Natural Gas, Electric, and Telecommunications Service Disconnections and requested that interested parties provide comments regarding whether the moratorium should remain in place. Vermont Public Power Supply Authority ("VPPSA") and its 11 municipal member utilities are supportive of the PUC's moratorium on involuntary disconnects remaining in effect through April 30. The safety and wellbeing of customers and staff is of utmost concern to VPPSA and its members. Due to the uncertainty around COVID-19 and the rapidly changing conditions, an extension of the moratorium should be addressed several weeks from now with consideration of the situation at that time.

Currently, VPPSA is evaluating the potential financial impacts of this global pandemic on its member utilities, including the impact of nonpayment of utility bills. VPPSA further suggests that at a future time it might be appropriate for the Commission, Public Service Department, and utilities to explore ways to mitigate costs incurred by utilities due to this public health emergency in order to minimize their impact on ratepayers.

Please contact me (mbailey@vppsa.com or 802-882-8509) with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Melissa Bailey
Manager of Government and Member Relations
Vermont Public Power Supply Authority