



Erika P. Smith
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June 18, 2021

VIA ePUC

Ms. Holly Anderson, Clerk
Public Utility Commission
112 State Street, Drawer 20
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2701

**Re: Consolidated Communications Comments Case No. 20-0703-PET -
Vermont Legal Aid request for moratorium on utility and
telecommunications shutoffs during State of Emergency**

Dear Ms. Anderson,

On June 11, 2021, Vermont Legal Aid and the Vermont Public Interest Research Group filed a motion with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) in the above reference case, asking that the moratorium on involuntary disconnections be extended until August 31, 2021. The Commission, in its June 16, 2021 Order provided parties until Friday, June 18, 2021 to respond to the Motion. Consolidated Communications of Vermont Company, LLC and Consolidated Communications of Northland Company, both d/b/a Consolidated Communications (“Consolidated”) submit the following comments.

As indicated in previous comments, Consolidated believes that further extending the moratorium is not in the best interest of our customers because it allows their past due balances to continue to accumulate. By allowing the moratorium to expire as planned under the current order, proactive customers can reach out to Consolidated to establish a payment arrangement, modify their services, or do both, helping to move toward a more typical payment process free of any past due balance. It is Consolidated’s view that allowing disconnection processes to resume facilitates our efforts to engage with our customers and find a solution to address these past due balances.

Consolidated appreciates this opportunity to provide comments to the Commission. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E P Smith".

Erika P. Smith