

ORIGINAL

N.H.P.U.C. Case No. DT 11-348

Exhibit No. ##

Witness Kevin O. Quinn

DO NOT PEMOVE FROM FILE

November 15, 2011

PATRICK C. MCHUGH, ESO. DON STATE PRESIDENT – NEW HAMPSHIRE 603.656.1633

PMCHUGH@FAIRPOINT.COM

## Via Hand Delivery

Debra Howland Executive Director and Secretary State of New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

Re: Municipal Property Tax Surcharge

Dear Ms. Howland:

As you know, the New Hampshire Legislature recently withdrew the telecommunications exemption from municipal property taxes otherwise imposed upon telephone poles and conduits owned by telecommunication companies pursuant to New Hampshire RSA Chapter 76. Consequently, municipalities in New Hampshire gained the statutory right to charge municipal property taxes on telephone poles and conduit owned by Northern New England Telephone Operations LLC ("NNETO"). With this legislation, an extensive number of municipalities have sent property tax bills assessing taxes on both telephone plant and the use of municipal rights-of way.

With this tariff submission, NNETO hereby implements a Municipal Property Tax Surcharge to recover all or a substantial portion of the amount of municipal property taxes billed to NNETO for telephone poles, conduit and use of municipal right-of-ways. The Surcharge will be applied beginning in December 2011 bills.

These tariff pages are being filed for effect December 1, 2011 and consist of:

## NH PUC No. 1

Part/Section	Revision of Page(s)	Original of Pages
A/1.7.2	29	N/A
M/1.1.4	1	N/A

## NH PUC No. 4

Part/Section	Revision of	Original of
4	Page(s)	Pages





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7.1	1	N/A

Attached are one original and two copies of the (i) necessary copies of the tariff pages, (ii) an Excel spreadsheet reflecting taxes charged to date and (iii) copies of the tax bills submitted to NNETO to date. I also have enclosed a confidential and public version of an explanatory memorandum that discuss the taxes imposed to date and the overall municipal property tax exposure based upon the current tax run rate. In addition, to demonstrate the breadth of the effort of municipalities to assess property taxes on telecommunication plant, enclosed is Volume 28, Number 2 of the New Hampshire Assessor's Exchange. As you can see on the first page, the New Hampshire Association of Assessing Officials is coordinating the dissemination of information intended to assist municipalities assess these taxes. These taxes will be significant and NNETO has no choice but to pass along these taxes to retail customers and on certain resold services. These submissions are included electronically on the enclosed disc.

NNETO represents in good faith that the support document marked "Confidential" pertains to the provision of competitive services; set forth trade secrets or other confidential information falling within the scope of RSA 91-A:5 and PUC Rule 201:4 (5). Pursuant to PUC 203.08, NNETO represents that a motion for confidentiality will be filed in advance of any hearing on these issues, if any.

As permitted by RSA 378:6, IV, NNETO respectfully requests that these tariff pages become effective in less than 30 days from the date of filing.

Please acknowledge receipt of this filing by date stamping the extra copy of this cover letter. Any questions you may have pertaining to this filing may be directed to me at (603) 656-1633 or via email at <a href="mailto:pmchugh@fairpoint.com">pmchugh@fairpoint.com</a>. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Patrick C. McHugh

cc: Office of Consumer Advocate (w/enclosures)