THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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January 20, 2006

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Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: DM 05-172 Generic Investigation into Utility Poles

Dear Ms. Howland:

A second technical session was held in the above-referenced docket on Tuesday, January 17, 2006. Please treat this letter as Staff's report of the session.

Participating in the technical session along with Staff were representatives of Verizon New Hampshire; Public Service Company of New Hampshire; Granite State Electric d/b/a National Grid-New Hampshire; Unitil Service Corporation; the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative; The Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire; City of Rochester; City of Concord; Town of Hampton; the municipalities of Exeter, Hanover, Keene, Newmarket, Portsmouth, Raymond, Salem, Seabrook and Stratham; George E. Sansoucy, PE LLC; the New Hampshire Telephone Association; Union Communications; Granite State Telephone; TDS Telecommunications; BayRing Communications; New England Cable and Telecommunications Association, Inc.; the N.H. Department of Justice representing the N.H. Department of Transportation; and the Office of Consumer Advocate.

Participants in the technical session reached agreement during the first half of the session on a list of topics for further discussion, a preliminary procedural schedule to address the first three priority topics, and a method for proceeding in the docket.

The **topics for further discussion, in order of priority**, are as follows:

1. Emergency Management
    a. Call Out Procedure
    b. Timely Removal of Hazardous Poles
    c. Intra-Utility Communication and Notification

d. Inter-Utility Communication, Notification and Coordination
e. Utility Communication with Others
f. Emergency Response Procedures

2. Joint Ownership Responsibilities for Operation and Maintenance
   a. Pole Line Trimming
   b. Inspection of Poles by Utilities
   c. Pole Maintenance
   d. Timely Placement and Removal of Poles
   e. Double Poles
   f. Inter-Company Communication and Notification

3. Utility Relationships with Governmental Entities and their Subcontractors
   a. Attachments/Reservation of Space
   b. Licensing
   c. Public Works Projects
   d. Management of Rights of Way (State & Municipal)

4. Retail Customer Relationships
   a. New Service Provisioning
   b. Private Property Construction Practices and Charges
   c. Service Upgrades and Changes

5. Competitive Issues
   a. Who sets poles in VZ maintenance area where VZ doesn't have a customer?
   b. Order of Attachments in Communication Space
   c. Make-Ready for New Attachments
   d. Whether and How Pole Attachment Practices Affect Competitive Market

The following **preliminary schedule** was proposed:

<u>Topic 1</u>

January 20	Proposed Supplemental Data Requests on Topic 1 to Staff
January 24	Data Requests from Staff to Parties
February 3	Data Responses from Parties to Staff
February 17	Technical/Work Session on Topic 1
March 9	Technical/Work Session on Topic 1
April 7	Topic 1 Work Product Due

<u>Topic 2</u>

January 31	Proposed Data Requests on Topic 2 to Staff
February 7	Data Requests from Staff to Parties
March 7	Data Responses from Parties to Staff
March 30	Initial Technical Session on Topic 2 (procedural schedule to be set for Topics 4 & 5)

April 20	Technical/Work Session on Topic 2
May 17	Technical/Work Session on Topic 2
May 31	Topic 2 Work Product Due

Topic 3

April 11	Initial Technical Session on Topic 3
April 14	Proposed Data Requests to Staff
April 20	Data Requests from Staff to Parties
May 11	Data Responses from Parties to Staff
June 9	Technical/Work Session on Topic 3

Finally, Participants agreed on the following **general approach for proceeding** in the docket:

1. Staff will send out a uniform email distribution list for communication of discovery and responses.
2. Staff will create a Website depository for discovery materials. Details will be sent to parties by email.
3. Separate Technical Sessions will be established for each topic. Participation will be open to all parties.
4. Work Products to be produced through Technical/Work Sessions will include summaries of issues and facts, recommendations where possible, and identification of issues where there is no consensus agreement. 2 or 3 volunteers per topic will facilitate discussions and drafting of the Work Product.
5. All proposed data requests will be sent to Staff for distribution.

The second half of the January 17 technical session was devoted to follow-up questions regarding the data responses received from each of the utilities on the topic of emergency management, including pole/facility installation and removal, and related procedures.

Staff respectfully requests that the Commission approve the preliminary procedural schedule outlined above. Please do not hesitate to contact Kate Bailey if there are any questions about the foregoing.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Amy Ignatius

for Lynn Fabrizio
Staff Attorney

cc Service List