COMMISSIONER Jared S. Chicoine

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10 Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

October 17, 2023

Daniel C. Goldner, Chairman New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit Street Concord, NH 03301

Re: DT 23-055; Registered Telephone Utilities; 2023 Intrastate Access Filings; Department of Energy, Appearance, Request re Service Lists, and Recommendation

Dear Chairman Goldner:

Please enter my appearance in this matter on behalf of the Department of Energy, pursuant to RSA 12-P:3, III. Please add the following persons to the docket and discovery service lists in this matter:

Paul Dexter - <u>paul.b.dexter@energy.nh.gov</u> Amanda Noonan - <u>amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov</u>

In a Procedural Order dated August 8, 2023 in this matter, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) stated:

"On October 9, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued its decision in *In the Matter of 8YY Access Charge Reform*, in which it required each "Rate-of-Return Carrier" to file certain updates to its tariff as of July 1, 2023. (FCC Order) (citations omitted). A number of telecommunications providers submitted their compliance filings in this docket."

Further, the Commission requested that the Department of Energy (Department):

- 1. Review tariff submissions made in this this docket by telecommunications providers to determine whether compliance filings have been received from all telecommunications providers that are regulated in New Hampshire and are subject to the FCC Order;
- 2. Determine whether the tariff filings comply with the FCC Order; and
- 3. Provide a recommendation of what further actions, if any, are required in this docket.

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-3670

Website: www.energy.nh.gov In response, the Department notes that the intrastate access tariffs filed with the Commission in this docket were also filed with the FCC and became operational as a matter of law on July 3, 2023 for New Hampshire's telephone utilities, the incumbent local exchange carriers, and as soon as July 18, 2023 for competitive providers. See attached FCC Public Notice to competitive local exchange carriers issued May 16, 2023. The FCC stated in its order that implementation of the rate reductions was timed to coincide with the FCC's annual access tariff filing dates, minimizing administrative burdens on filing entities and on the FCC. Based on review by Department, it appears that the local exchange carrier filings in this docket are consistent with the FCC directives. As those tariff filings became effective as a matter of law on July 3, 2023 and July 18, 2023, and such filings with the states are essentially informational in nature, the Department respectfully suggests that no further action by the Commission is necessary.

Consistent with the Commission's current practices this letter is being filed only in electronic form.

Sincerely,

|s| Faul B. Dexter

Paul B. Dexter Senior Hearings Examiner/Legal Director

cc: Service List

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