STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

September 10, 2021

Re: DE 21-020, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy and Consolidated Communications of Northern New England Company, LLC d/b/a Consolidated Communications

Joint Petition to Approve Pole Asset Transfer

Rulings on Motion for Leave to File Reply to Objections, Motion to Extend

Deadline, and Motion for Stay of Proceedings

To the Parties:

On August 4, 2021, the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) moved to dismiss the joint petition to approve pole asset transfer filed by Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) and Consolidated Communications of Northern New England Company, LLC d/b/a Consolidated Communications (Consolidated). Eversource and Consolidated filed separate objections to the OCA's motion to dismiss.

The OCA filed a request for leave to file a reply to Eversource's and Consolidated's objections, together with its reply, on August 19, 2021. In its motion, the OCA argued it should be permitted to file a reply to counter misstatements contained in the objections and to provide additional information for the Commission to consider when ruling on the motion to dismiss. There have been no objections to the OCA's motion for leave to file a reply.

On August 13, 2021, New England Cable and Telecommunications Association, Inc. (NECTA) moved to compel Consolidated to respond to certain data requests NECTA submitted to Consolidated. Consolidated filed a partially assented-to motion to extend the deadline for filing an objection to NECTA's motion to compel on August 23, 2021 and its objection on August 25, 2021. No objection to Consolidated's motion to extend deadline was filed.

The New Hampshire Department of Energy (Energy) filed a motion to stay the remainder of the amended procedural schedule approved by the Commission on July 29, 2021, pending the outcome of the OCA's motion to dismiss and NECTA's motion to compel. Energy stated that it requested a stay because the outcome of these motions could have a considerable impact on the remainder of the proceedings. NETCA filed a notice of concurrence with Energy's motion to stay on August 25, 2021, and no objections have been filed.

The OCA's motion for leave to file a reply to Eversource's and Consolidated's objections to the motion to dismiss has been granted, and the OCA's reply has been accepted for

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filing in this docket. Consolidated's motion to extend deadline for filing its objection to NECTA's motion to compel has also been granted and its objection accepted for filing in this docket.

In addition, Energy's motion to stay has been granted in part to extend the OCA/Energy/Intervenor testimony filing deadline for 60 days, until November 8, 2021. The remainder of the amended procedural schedule, including the hearings scheduled on November 3 and 4, is cancelled, so that the parties have an opportunity to develop a new procedural schedule. Prior to the November 8 deadline, the parties are directed to confer regarding a procedural schedule for resolving the outstanding issues in this docket, and report back to Commission with either a proposed revised procedural schedule or a notification that the parties were unable to agree, in which case the Commission will establish a new procedural schedule.

Sincerely,

Dianne Martin Chairwoman

cc: Service List (Electronically)

Docket File

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 21-020

Printed: 9/10/2021

Email Addresses

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