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February 22, 2017

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

**Re: DT 16-872, Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc.
Joint Petition for Findings in Furtherance of the Acquisition of FairPoint
Communications, Inc. and its New Hampshire Operating Subsidiaries
Request for Extension of Discovery Deadlines**

Dear Ms. Howland:

On February 17, 2017, Commission Staff served its first set of data requests on the joint petitioners in this proceeding. Pursuant to the approved procedural schedule for the docket, objections and responses would be due this week. However, Staff and the joint petitioners believe it would be useful to discuss the nature and scope of certain of the data requests with Staff's consultant and it has not yet been possible to schedule that call.

Staff therefore requests that the Commission approve an extension of the applicable discovery deadlines such that objections to Staff's first set of data requests would be due on Monday, February 27, 2017, and responses to those data requests would be due on Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

I certify that a copy of this letter will be served electronically on the parties on the service list at the same time it is filed with the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Wiesner".

David K. Wiesner
Staff Attorney

cc: Docket File
Service List

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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Docket #: 16-872-1 Printed: February 22, 2017

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:**

DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429

- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.**
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.**