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March 10, 2017

NHPUC 10MAR17PM1:48

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
Extension of Discovery-Related Deadlines as Requested by Staff

To the Parties:

Pursuant to Order No. 25,997 (March 7, 2017) at 17-19, I have been appointed to serve as hearings examiner and presiding officer to address with the parties and attempt to resolve discovery disputes that may arise in this proceeding. The Commission granted me the authority "to extend deadlines otherwise applicable under the procedural schedule for the docket."

By letter dated March 8, 2017, Commission Staff requested that the deadline for filing a motion to compel regarding its first set of data requests be suspended indefinitely, and that Staff instead be required to submit to me as presiding officer its written statement regarding the disputed data requests and its arguments for production of the documents and information, by Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Staff indicated that none of the parties in the proceeding objects to its request.

I have reviewed the request for a suspension and extension of the relevant discovery-related deadlines, and I believe the request is reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances. Accordingly, the motion to compel filing deadline is suspended indefinitely and Staff is required to submit its written statement regarding the disputed data requests, and its arguments for production of documents and information, on or before March 14, 2017.

Once I have reviewed Staff's statement and arguments I will be in touch with the parties concerning a process for resolving the disputed requests. I look forward to working with the parties to resolve any disputes expeditiously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Anne Ross".

F. Anne Ross, Esq.
General Counsel

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: March 10, 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
EXEC 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.**