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State of Vermont
Public Utility Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VERMONT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION EXPANDS MORATORIUM ON DISCONNECTIONS TO INCLUDE NON-RESIDENTIAL RATEPAYERS AND CERTAIN WATER COMPANIES

Montpelier, VT, March 27, 2020 - Today the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission") expanded the moratorium on utility disconnections to include non-residential ratepayers and regulated water companies. A previous order, issued on March 18, 2020, had directed utilities to stop any disconnection of residential utility service due to nonpayment of electricity, natural gas, and telecommunication bills.

In today's order, the Commission expands the same protection to non-residential ratepayers (such as commercial and industrial customers) and to certain water companies under the Commission's jurisdiction. This expanded moratorium will last until at least April 30, 2020.

The moratorium on disconnections applies to the 21 regulated water companies in Vermont. Not all water companies (for example, fire districts) are under the Commission's jurisdiction.

The Commission issued the original order on March 18, 2020, to ensure that all Vermonters are protected from utility disconnections during the state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. With this second order, the Commission recognizes that commercial and industrial customers and the customers of water companies will also endure financial constraints, and that involuntary disconnections due to nonpayment of bills would put them at risk.

The proceeding was opened in response to a March 16, 2020, petition from Vermont Legal Aid "on behalf of the low-income, disabled, and elderly residents of the state."

For more information about the moratorium, please contact: Kyle Landis-Marinello, General Counsel, kyle.landis-marinello@vermont.gov. All documents in this proceeding can be found by searching for Case No. 20-0703-PET on ePUC, the PUC's online document-management system (https://epuc.vermont.gov).