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March 16, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire
Chief Clerk & Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Suspension and Disconnection During the State of Emergency due to COVID-19
2020-____-A

Dear Ms. Boyd:

On March 14, 2020, the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") received instruction from Governor McMaster requesting that all regulated utilities and cooperatives be prohibited from suspension or disconnection of essential services for nonpayment during the current State of Emergency.[1] ORS commends the utilities that have already informed the media and/or ORS that they would not suspend or disconnect any services for nonpayment due to COVID-19.

In light of the direction received from Governor McMaster, ORS respectfully requests expedited action by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") to grant waivers of the following regulations for all utilities under its jurisdiction:

Electric

103-339.3	Late Payment Charges
103-352	Procedures for Termination of Service

Gas

103-439.3	Late Payment Charges
103-452	Procedures for Termination of Service

[1] See attached Executive Order No. 2020-08 issued March 13, 2020 declaring a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina due to COVID-19; also see attached the March 14, 2020 letter from Governor McMaster to ORS Executive Director Edwards regarding the suspension and disconnection of essential utility services.

Water

103-732.3	Late Payment Charges
103-735.1	Procedures for Termination of Service

Wastewater

103-532.2	Late Payment Charges
103-535	Denial or Discontinuation of Service

Telecommunication

103-622.2	Late Payment Charges
103-633	Procedures for Termination of Service

Additionally, ORS respectfully requests any utility desiring to waive the portion of its tariff providing for the collection of reconnection fees be granted the authority to waive any such fees during the State of Emergency.

The Commission may direct the utilities to provide a report to the Commission as to their financial impact related to the waivers discussed herein and other actions which may be necessitated in addressing customer needs for COVID-19. ORS also urges the utilities to keep ORS, customers and the Commission apprised of material COVID-19 related updates.

Thank you for your consideration, please do not hesitate to reach out should you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jenny R. Pittman

Encl.

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