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**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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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

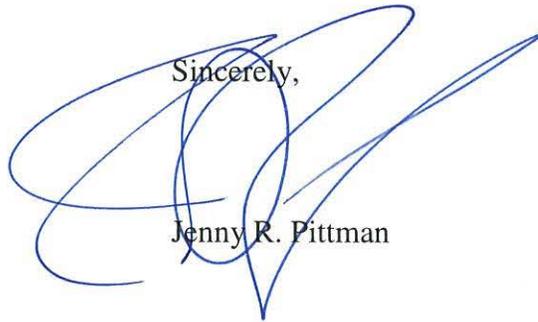
Additionally, ORS respectfully requests any utility desiring to waive the portion of its tariff providing for the collection of reconnection fees be granted the authority to waive any such fees during the State of Emergency.

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.