



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

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July 7, 2020

Ms. Luly Massaro
Commission Clerk
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888

In Re: Docket No. 5022

Dear Luly,

Through Order No. 23836, issued on June 2, 2020, the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) extended its previously ordered moratorium on utility collections activities, including termination of service for nonpayment, until July 17, 2020.¹ The moratorium was initially put in place on March 16, 2020 in response to a declared state of emergency related to the COVID-19 virus.²

The Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) submits these comments in response to the invitation for comments contained in Commission "Notice to Solicit Written Public Comments" ("Notice") issued in Docket 5022 on June 30, 2020. The Commission’s Notice stated as follows:

“The PUC specifically requests comment on the following: (1) whether a moratorium on service terminations should continue for all categories of customers (non-residential, standard customers, protected customers); (2) whether there should be a lifting of the moratorium for a category of customer; and (3) the appropriate duration of any extension of a moratorium on service terminations.”

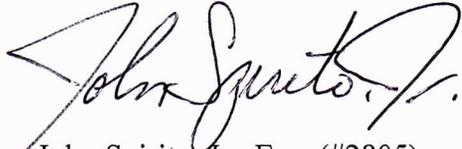
The Commission has requested that all comments be submitted by July 7, 2020. However, the Notice reflects that the Commission would accept comments through July 13, 2020.

¹ Order No. 23836, p. 7.

² Order No. 23786.

As in its previous comments in this docket, the Division has no objection to a further extension of the Commission's prohibition on "collections activities... including termination of service for nonpayment" for both residential and nonresidential customers after July 17, 2020 (See Order Nos. 23786, 23807, 23809, 23826 and 23836), if determined to be appropriate and necessary by the Commission in view of the continuing COVID-19 crisis and based on the data responses proffered by the State's regulated water, gas and electric utility companies. The Division emphasizes that those data responses universally reflect a reduction in utility collections during the last several months.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Spirito, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John Spirito, Jr., Esq. (#2805)
Chief Legal Counsel, RIDPUC