

202010050

**STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
Division of Information Resources**

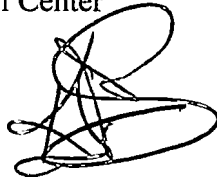
October 1, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Document Control Center  
Clerk's Office

**FROM:** Ken Schrad

**RE:** PUR-2020-00048



2020 OCT -1 P 4: 32  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
DOCUMENT CONTROL CENTER

Please submit the following to the case file referenced below:

- October 1, 2020 letter from the Office of the Governor
- October 1, 2020 response letter from the Commission

**PUR-2020-00048**

**Ex Parte: Temporary Suspension of Tariff Requirements**



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

October 1, 2020

Ralph S. Northam  
Governor

The Honorable Mark C. Christie  
The Honorable Judith Williams Jagdmann  
The Honorable Jehmal T. Hudson  
State Corporation Commission  
P. O. Box 1197  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Chairman Christie and Commissioners:

I write to request another extension of the suspension of utility service disconnections through December 1, 2020 or a General Assembly reconvened session, whichever is sooner. On September 14, 2020 I made a similar request and very much appreciate the Commission's earlier extension of this order. The current moratorium on disconnections is in place pursuant to the State Corporation Commission's Case No. PUR-2020-00048 and is set to expire October 5, 2020. As I mentioned, this order has had a positive effect in protecting public health throughout the Commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic and we thank you for your leadership. The Virginia General Assembly is still in special session, so this request is intended to give the legislature the time they need to finish their work and address this issue.

On August 18, 2020 I submitted my budget to the General Assembly. We proposed language for a utility disconnection moratorium, repayment plan structure, and debt forgiveness program. With proposals for utilities and customers included in both the House and Senate's recently introduced budget proposals, we are optimistic that the General Assembly will address this issue. The intent of this request is to ensure that there are no disconnections between the expiration of the current order and when the budget becomes law.

Our goal is to protect public health and support families facing unprecedented hardship during this pandemic, and my administration will continue to work with legislative leadership, providers, and advocates on this issue. Extending the moratorium will ensure that families can keep essential services on while the legislature finalizes next steps.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me, or my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

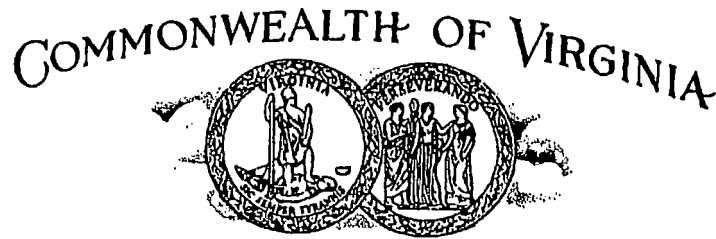
Ralph S. Northam

202010050

MARK C. CHRISTIE  
COMMISSIONER

JEHMAL T. HUDSON  
COMMISSIONER

JUDITH WILLIAMS JAGDMANN  
COMMISSIONER



JOHN F. DUDLEY  
COUNSEL TO THE COMMISSION

804.371.9608  
John.Dudley@scc.virginia.gov

**STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION**

October 1, 2020

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam  
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia  
Patrick Henry Building  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Northam:

Please accept this response to your October 1, 2020, letter to the Commissioners, requesting an extension of the moratorium on service disconnections by jurisdictional electricity, natural gas, water, and sewer utilities. As discussed in the enclosed order of September 15, 2020 (which also closed the Commission's official proceeding in this matter), the Commission-mandated moratorium began on March 16, 2020, and will not be extended beyond October 5, 2020.

I would like to emphasize, however, that Commission-mandated consumer protections continue – pursuant to that same Commission order – beyond October 5<sup>th</sup>. Specifically, the Commission has ordered all jurisdictional utilities to continue to offer extended payment plans of up to 12 months. The Commission further directed that customers on such plans (or other good-faith repayment plans with the utility) shall not be charged late fees and shall not be disconnected. Thus, for these customers, the protections of the moratorium continue.

Finally, your correspondence references legislative activity on this matter as part of the ongoing General Assembly special session that began on August 18, 2020. In this regard, please know that the Commission, as always, stands ready to implement any statutory directives that result therefrom.

Sincerely,

John F. Dudley  
Counsel to the Commission

Encl: *Additional Order on Moratorium,*  
Case No. PUR-2020-00048 (Sep. 15, 2020)