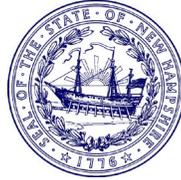


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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

March 8, 2024

Daniel C. Goldner, Chair
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

RE: DT 24-020 Barr Tell USA, LLC Interconnection Agreement between Barr Tell USA, LLC and Consolidated Communications of Northern New England Company, LLC

Dear Chair Goldner:

On January 19, 2024, Barr Tell USA, LLC (Bar Tell) and Consolidated Communications of Northern New England Company, LLC (Consolidated) filed an interconnection agreement (Agreement) between the two companies for Commission approval pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e).

Section 47 USC 252(e)(2)(A) requires the Commission to approve a negotiated interconnection agreement unless it is determined that the Agreement, or some portion of it, discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement or that the implementation of the Agreement would not be consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

In their filing, Bar Tell and Consolidated state that the Agreement does not discriminate against nonparties, is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and is consistent with the orders, rules and regulations of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission. The filing also states that the parties have arrived at this Agreement through negotiation. After review, Department staff found no evidence to dispute these claims. As such, the Department recommends approval of the Interconnection Agreement.

The Department would also note that as recently as January 5, 2024, in Order No. 26,927 and Order No. 26,928, the Commission has approved interconnection agreements via Order *Nisi*. As such, the Department would support an Order *Nisi* for approval of this Agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew C. Young".

Matthew C. Young
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner
New Hampshire Department of Energy

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