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July 21, 2017

Re: DT 11-061, Northern New England Telephone Operations LLC d/b/a FairPoint Communications-NNE Petition for Approval of Simplified Metrics Plan and Wholesale Performance Plan
Scheduling Public Comment Hearing on Replacement Bill Credit Payee Following Repeal of the Telecommunications Planning and Development Fund

To the Parties:

In Order No. 25,623 (February 19, 2014), the Commission directed that any Wholesale Performance Plan (WPP) bill credits waived by a competitive local exchange carrier through a commercial contract or otherwise be paid by FairPoint to the Telecommunications Planning and Development Fund established under RSA 12-A:45-a, to be used for the purposes of and subject to the procedures specified in the Telecommunications Planning and Development Initiative, RSA 12-A:45-49. That requirement was expressly reaffirmed in the Commission's Order No. 25,662 (May 6, 2014).

Effective July 1, 2017, the statutory authorization for the Telecommunications Planning and Development Fund was repealed by House Bill 517, 2017 N.H. Laws Chapter 156. In view of that repeal, the Commission has determined that an appropriate alternative payee to receive FairPoint WPP bill credits should be identified and approved and that one alternative to be considered should be the Telecommunications Relay Service Trust Fund.

The Commission has scheduled a public comment hearing to address appropriate alternative payees for the FairPoint WPP bill credits, to be held on August 4, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. In addition, parties and other interested stakeholders may submit written comments regarding such appropriate alternative payees until August 11, 2017.

Subsequent to the receipt of public comments, the Commission will determine the appropriate alternative payee for the FairPoint WPP bill credits and designate that payee by order modifying its previous orders in this docket under RSA 365:28.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra A. Howland".

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Docket File/Service List (Electronically)