



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
172 Pembroke Road P.O. Box 1856 Concord, New Hampshire 03302-1856

603-271-2341
FAX: 603-271-6784
www.nheconomy.com

August 24, 2012

Hand Delivered and by Email

Debra A Howland
Executive Director and Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord NH, 03301-2429

Re: DT12-107 New Hampshire Optical Systems, LLC

Dear Secretary Howland:

On Behalf of the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) and Commissioner George Bald, enclosed are an original and six (6) copies of a letter in regards to DT12-107.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carol Miller,
Director of Broadband Technologies
NH DRED, Division of Economic Development

Enclosure
Cc: Service List (electronic mail only)



TDD ACCESS: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964 recycled paper

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 603-271-2341



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE of the COMMISSIONER
172 Pembroke Road P.O. Box 1856 Concord, New Hampshire 03302-1856

GEORGE M. BALD
Commissioner

603-271-2411
FAX: 603-271-2629
E-MAIL: gbald@dred.state.nh.us

August 24, 2012

Debra A Howland
Executive Director and Secretary
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord NH, 03301-2429

Re: DT12-107 New Hampshire Optical System Inc

Dear Secretary Howland:

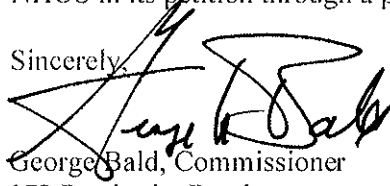
The mission of the Department of Resources and Economic Development ("DRED"), through its Division of Economic Development, is, among other things, to expand economic opportunities in New Hampshire through the attraction of new businesses and the expansion of existing businesses. In furtherance of its mission, DRED has been an active supporter of and participant in the Network New Hampshire Now project ("Project") being led by the University of New Hampshire ("UNH").

The core of the Project is the Middle Mile Network, which consists of an open-access, high-speed, middle-mile, fiber optic network designed to support public educational, economic, public safety and governmental needs primarily in certain unserved and underserved areas in the State of New Hampshire. Construction of the Middle Mile Network is funded by a public/private partnership that is supported by a grant of up to \$44.5 million ("the Broadband Build-out Grant") by the U.S. Department of Commerce under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The Project is the direct result of the efforts of a number of public and private entities that were brought together by DRED and guided by the Governor's Telecommunications Planning and Development Advisory Board (TAB). The Project provides the backbone on which, among other things, the State of New Hampshire plans to build other important infrastructure necessary to upgrade state agency facilities including but not limited to the 7Million BTOP Funded Public Safety Microwave upgrade called NHSafeNet (DRED, DOS, DOT, NHPTV, and NH National Guard) on State owned Mountain Tops managed by DRED, and for other public purposes.

DRED understands that the contractor selected to construct the Middle Mile Network, New Hampshire Optical Systems, Inc., has encountered delays in constructing the Middle Mile Network that relate to the rights and obligations of parties under their pole attachment agreements with various utility pole owners. In order to comply with the terms of the Broadband Build-out Grant, the Middle Mile Network must be completed by June 30, 2013. It is critical to the success of the Middle Mile Network that it be completed in a timely fashion. Delays may threaten the project. Failure to complete the Project may result in direct harm to the participants in the Project, and to the general public interests of the State of New Hampshire. In particular, failure to complete the Project will significantly undermine the economic development goals sought to be achieved by DRED through its participation in the Project.

We welcome the chance to provide our perspective to the Commission regarding the issues raised by NHOS in its petition through a public process that will facilitate the involvement of all interested parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Bald", written over a large, stylized "X" mark.

George Bald, Commissioner
172 Pembroke Road
P.O. Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856
Telephone: (603) 271-2411