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February 21, 2003

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Boston Edison Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric, D.T.E. 02-80A

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced matter is the Joint Motion to Defer Evidentiary Hearings of Boston Edison Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric and the Attorney General. We are pleased to inform the Department of Telecommunications and Energy that we have reached tentative agreement on all issues, subject to approval of final settlement documents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Werlin

Enclosures

cc: William Stevens, Hearing Officer
Service List

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

Boston Edison Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric	)))	D.T.E. 02-80A

JOINT MOTION TO DEFER EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

Pursuant to 220 C.M.R. § 1.04(5)(c), Boston Edison Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric (the "Company") and the Attorney General of the Commonwealth (the "Attorney General") (together, the "Parties") request that the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the "Department") defer evidentiary hearings in the above-captioned proceeding, now scheduled for August 19, 2003, for the purpose of allowing sufficient time and attention to be committed to finalize a settlement between the Parties.

The Parties have reached tentative agreement on all issues, subject to the approval of final settlement documents by the Attorney General. Settlement documents are presently under review and likely can be filed with the grant of a modest amount of additional time. The Parties have tentatively resolved all issues and should be ready to file settlement documents with the Department by September 5, 2003. Good cause exists to grant this motion because the expenditure of resources by all involved (including the Department) will be reduced if the Parties are able to conclude a settlement of issues rather than proceeding to hearings. There are no other parties to the proceeding who will be affected by the requested deferral.

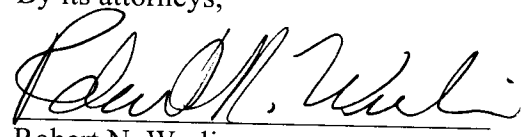
Accordingly, the parties request that the Department suspend the procedural schedule insofar as it requires the commencement of evidentiary hearings on August 19,

2003. The Parties will file a Settlement Agreement on or before September 5, 2003, or report back to the Hearing Officer on that date with a proposed procedural schedule for going forward with evidentiary hearings should such hearings be necessary.

Respectfully Submitted,

BOSTON EDISON COMPANY
d/b/a NSTAR Electric

By its attorneys,



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Dated: August 15, 2003