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January 7, 1998

Janet Gail Besser, Acting Chair  
John D. Patrone, Commissioner  
James Connelly, Commissioner  
Department of Telecommunications and Energy  
100 Cambridge Street, 12th Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02202

Re: Massachusetts Gas Unbundling Collaborative

Dear Chair Besser, Commissioner Patrone and Commissioner Connelly:

In response to the December 18, 1997 letter of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") concerning the appointment of a facilitator for the Massachusetts Gas Unbundling Collaborative (the "Collaborative"), the Collaborative has established a three member sub-committee to resolve this issue.

The sub-committee is in the process of receiving suggestions regarding potential candidates for facilitator and hopes to identify an individual who is both familiar with the process and well-informed on the issues addressed in the November 21, 1997 Status Report to the Department. In accordance with the milestones set forth in the Status Report, the Collaborative is moving ahead with discussions to resolve issues in a progressive manner. The sub-committee's intent is to secure a facilitator who could contribute to the productive discussions already taking place. The sub-committee intends to consider such candidates for facilitator and make recommendations to the full Collaborative at the next meeting on January 13, 1998. The Collaborative will keep the Department apprised of the resolution of this issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Keegan

cc: Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary  
Service List – Massachusetts Gas Unbundling Collaborative