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SECRETARY'S BUREAU

KATHLEEN G. KANE ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 2, 2014

Bureau of Consumer Protection—Harrisburg Office 15th Floor, Strawberry Square Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120 Telephone: 717.787.9707

Facsimile: 717.705.3795

SENT VIA INTER OFFICE MAIL

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Re:

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement v. Respond Power, LLC – Docket No. C-2014-2438640

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed please find the Office of Attorney General Bureau of Consumer Protection's Notice of Intervention in the above-referenced proceeding. Copies have been served as indicated on the enclosed Certificate of Service.

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Very truly your

John M. Abel

Senior Deputy Attorney General

PA Attorney I.D. #47313

Enclosures

cc:

Honorable Elizabeth Barnes, ALJ Honorable Joel Cheskis, ALJ

Certificate of Service

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY
COMMISSION, BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT,
Complainant

- 1

Docket No. C-2014-2438640

Respond Power, LLC

v.

Respondent

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.71-76, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection (Commonwealth or Attorney General) hereby gives Notice of Intervention in the above-captioned proceeding. In support thereof, the Commonwealth submits the following:

- 1. The Attorney General is the chief law officer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to Article IV § 4.1 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. See Pa. Const. art. IV, § 4.1.
- 2. The Attorney General is authorized to intervene in this action, and does so in accordance with the Commonwealth Attorneys Act, 71 P.S. § 732-204(c), which provides in pertinent part that the "Attorney General shall represent the Commonwealth and all Commonwealth agencies . . . in any action brought by or against the Commonwealth or its agencies, and may intervene in any other actions." See 71 P.S. § 732-204(c).
- 3. Pursuant to the provisions of <u>The Administrative Code of 1929</u>, 71 P.S. § 307-1, et seq., the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection, shall

"investigate fraud, misrepresentation and deception in the sale, servicing and financing of consumer goods and products." See 71 P.S. § 307-2(2).

- 4. Whenever the Attorney General has reason to believe that any person is using or is about to use any method, act, or practice declared to be unlawful by Section 3 of the <u>Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law</u>, 73 P.S. § 201-1, *et seq.*, (Consumer Protection Law), and that proceedings would be in the public interest, the Attorney General may bring an action in the name of the Commonwealth against such person to restrain by temporary or permanent injunction the use of such method, act, or practice. <u>See</u> 73 P.S. § 201-4.
- 5. The Attorney General, under the Consumer Protection Law takes action on behalf of the public at large "to protect the citizenry." Valley Forge Towers South Condominium v. Ron-Ike Foam Insulators, Inc., 393 Pa. Super. 339, 346, 574 A.2d 641, 644 (1990) aff³d 529 Pa. 512, 605 A. 2d 798 (1990).
- 6. The Commonwealth, through its attorneys, has standing and authority to intervene as of right in all Commission proceedings subject to 52 Pa. Code § 5.72(a)(1)-(3). See 52 Pa. Code § 5.72(b).
- 7. By way of background, the Attorney General, along with the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a Joint Complaint, docket number C-2014-2427659, against Respond Power, LLC (Respondent) on June 20, 2014.
- 8. The Commonwealth has determined to intervene in this proceeding to protect the public interest, as required by Section 201-4 of the Consumer Protection Law and allowed by Commission regulations. See 73 P.S. § 201-4 and 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.72(a)(1), (3), and (b).
- 9. As a business conducting trade or commerce within the Commonwealth, by offering for sale and distributing any good or service of value that directly or indirectly affects

the people of this Commonwealth, Respondent is obligated under the Commission's regulations to comply with the Consumer Protection Law and to bill its customers for electric supply in accordance with the prices marketed and guaranteed.

10. The Commonwealth will participate in BIE's complaint proceedings and address questions of law and fact as appropriate to assure Respondent's compliance with the Consumer Protection Law and the Commission's regulations in order to protect the public's interests.

DATE: 9-2-14

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Abel

Senior/Deputy Attorney General

Attorney I.D. 47313

Nicole R. Beck Deputy Attorney General PA Attorney I.D. 315325 Bureau of Consumer Protection Office of Attorney General 15th Floor, Strawberry Square Harrisburg, PA 17120 T: (717) 787-9707

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BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY

COMMISSION, BUREAU OF

INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT,

Complainant

v. : Docket No. C-2014-2438640

Respond Power, LLC

Respondent

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document, the Office of Attorney General Bureau of Consumer Protection's Notice of Intervention, in the manner and upon the persons listed below:

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Michael Swindler, Esq.
Wayne T. Scott, Esq.
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John M. Abel

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