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|  | **PENNSYLVANIA**  **PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  **Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265** |  |
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|  | Public Meeting held January 28, 2010 |
| Commissioners Present: |  |

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| James H. Cawley, Chairman | |
| Tyrone J. Christy, Vice Chairman  Kim Pizzingrilli | |
| Wayne E. Gardner | |
| Robert F. Powelson | |
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| License Application of Spark Energy, L.P. for Approval to Offer, Render, Furnish or Supply Electricity or Electric Generation Services as a Supplier of Retail Electricity. | Docket Number: A-2009-2145787 |

# ORDER

**BY THE COMMISSION:**

On December 1, 2009, Spark Energy, L.P. (Spark Energy) filed an application seeking to become a licensed electric generation supplier (EGS) in the electric distribution company service territories throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The application was filed pursuant to the Commission’s regulations at 52 Pa. Code §§54.31-54.43, which became effective on August 8, 1998, and which were established under Section 2809 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §2809.

§2809 provides in pertinent part that:

License Requirement.--No person or corporation, including municipal corporations which choose to provide service outside their municipal limits except to the extent provided prior to the effective date of this chapter, brokers and marketers, aggregators and other entities, shall engage in the business of an electric generation supplier in this Commonwealth unless the person or corporation holds a license issued by the Commission. 66 Pa. C.S. §2809.

An electric generation supplier is defined as:

A person or corporation, including municipal corporations which choose to provide service outside their municipal limits except to the extent provided prior to the effective date of this chapter, brokers and marketers, aggregators or any other entities, that sells to end-use customers utilizing the jurisdictional transmission and distribution facilities of an electric distribution company, or that purchases, brokers, arranges or markets electricity or related services to end-use customers utilizing the jurisdictional transmission and distribution facilities of an electric distribution company.

66 Pa. C.S. §2803.

Spark Energy is a foreign limited partnership, organized in the State of Texas as of February 5, 2002, and registered to do business in Pennsylvania as of July 31, 2006. Spark Energy proposes to act as a supplier of retail electric power to residential, commercial, industrial and governmental customers in the service territories throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Spark Energy proposes to sell various electricity products to the retail market. Since Spark Energy intends to provide electric generation supplier services to residential customers, Chapter 56 residential service regulations apply.

Applicable Chapter 56 residential service regulations are set forth in the Commission Order *Guidelines for Maintaining Customer Service at the Same Level of Quality Pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. §2807(d), and Assuring Conformance with 52 Pa. Code Chapter 56 Pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. §2809(e) and (f),* at Docket No. M-00960890 F0011, Order entered July 11, 1997. Chapter 56 (52 Pa Code Chapter 56) is applicable to residential accounts. An electric generation supplier cannot physically disconnect a residential customer from the electricity grid; therefore, the rules relating to residential service termination are not applicable to electric generation suppliers. An electric generation supplier may seek to terminate its generation service through an appropriate written notice to the customer and the distribution company. The residential customer can then attempt to repair their relationship with the supplier, seek a new supplier, or default to utility service at capped rates in accordance with the utility's obligations under Section 2807(e), 66 Pa. C.S. §2807(e). The customer would only be disconnected from the electricity grid pursuant to appropriate regulations if the customer failed to meet its obligations to the utility or the electric generation supplier that has been designated by the Commission as the provider of last resort.

Additionally, we specifically note that the licensee must comply with, and ensure that its employees, agents, representatives and independent contractors comply with the standards of conduct and disclosure for licensees set out in Commission regulations at 52 Pa. Code § 54.43 that were enacted to protect consumers of this Commonwealth. These standards include, *inter alia*, the provision of timely and accurate information about the services offered by the licensee, the practice of nondiscrimination in service in regard to race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, etc., the safeguarding of a consumer’s personal information, and compliance with applicable state and federal consumer protection laws. Also, we take this opportunity to remind the licensee of its agreement to abide by, and to ensure that its employees, representatives, agents and independent contractors abide by all applicable federal and state laws, and Commission regulations, procedures and orders, including Emergency Orders, which may be issued verbally or in writing during any emergency situations that may unexpectedly develop from time to time in the course of business.

Spark Energy has provided proofs of publication in Pennsylvania newspapers and proofs of service to the interested parties as required by the Commission.

Regarding the financial and technical requirements of the license application, Spark Energy submitted a chart depicting organizational structure, a Dun & Bradstreet credit report, and audited consolidated financials for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. Spark Energy also submitted unaudited financial statements for the eight months ended August 31, 2009. Spark Energy has also supplied resume data for its chief officers detailing managerial experience in retail energy, sales and marketing, and financial experience. Also submitted was information regarding staffing and training commitments, membership in PJM Interconnect, and a North American Reliability Council affidavit. Sufficient information has been provided by Spark Energy to demonstrate its financial and technical fitness in order to be licensed as a supplier of retail electric power in the electric company distribution company service territories throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Spark Energy has provided a $250,000 surety bond as required by the license application.

Spark Energy has provided the required Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) contact information.

As of January 8, 2010, no protests have been filed.

We find that the applicant:

1. Is fit, willing and able to properly perform the service proposed in conformance with applicable provisions of the Public Utility Code and lawful Commission orders and regulations, specifically including 52 Pa. Code Chapter 56 (relating to Standards and Billing Practices for Residential Utility Service).

2. Has agreed to lawfully abide by all Commission regulations, procedures and orders, including Emergency Orders, which may be issued verbally or in writing during any emergency situations that may unexpectedly develop from time to time in the course of doing business in Pennsylvania.

3. That the proposed service, to the extent authorized by the license, will be consistent with the public interest and the policy declared in the Electricity Generation Customer Choice and Competition Act.

Upon full consideration of all matters of record, we find that approval of this application is necessary and proper for the service, accommodation and convenience of the public; **THEREFORE,**

**IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That the application of Spark Energy, L.P. is hereby approved, consistent with this Order.

2. That a license be issued authorizing Spark Energy, L.P. to begin to offer, render, furnish or supply electric generation supplier services to the public in the service territories throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3. That a copy of this Order be served on the Department of Revenue, Bureau of Corporation Taxes.

4. That this proceeding at Docket No. A-2009-2145787 be closed.



**BY THE COMMISSION,**

James J. McNulty

Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: January 28, 2010

ORDER ENTERED: January 29, 2010