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Deanne M. O'Dell 717.255.3744 dodell@eckertseamans.com

November 25, 2014

# Via Hand Delivery

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary PA Public Utility Commission P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: Petition of Direct Energy Business, LLC to Revise its Current Bond/Security

Docket No. A-110025

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

On behalf of Direct Energy Business, LLC enclosed for filing please find its Petition to Revise its Current Bond/Security along with a check in the amount of \$350 for the filing fee. Please be advised that some of the attachments are marked **confidential** and should be handled accordingly.

Sincerely,

Deanne M. O'Dell

DMO/lww Enclosure

ec: Attached Certificate of Service w/enc.

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# BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Petition of Direct Energy Business, LLC to Revise Its Current Bond/Security

Docket No. A-110025

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## PETITION OF DIRECT ENERGY BUSINESS, LLC

Pursuant to the Commission's Final Order entered on July 24, 2014 at Docket Number M-2013-2393141 ("Financial Security Order"), Direct Energy Business, LLC ("Direct Energy") requests that the Commission reduce the level of security it is required to maintain with the Commission from the current 10% to 5% of its last twelve months of revenue. Direct Energy also seeks approval to utilize a parental guarantee from its corporate parent, Centrica plc. In support of this request, Direct Energy states as follows:

- 1. Direct Energy is currently licensed as an electric generation supplier ("EGS") for all customer classes within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The EGS license was first approved on July 31, 1997 to Direct Energy's predecessor, Strategic Energy Partners Ltd. After a series of corporate transactions and name changes, the Commission ultimately approved the name change of the original licensee to Direct Energy.
- 2. Direct Energy has maintained its license in good standing and is compliant with current financial security requirements.
- 3. Pursuant to the *Financial Security Order*, the Commission concluded that an EGS, following its first year of operations, may petition to have its bonding requirement reduced from 10% to 5% of the EGS's last 12 months of revenue or \$250,000, whichever is higher, so long as the revised amount still meets the other criteria set forth in 52 Pa Code § 54.40(f). *Financial Security Order* at 11-12. The Commission also concluded that it would permit EGSs

to rely on additional forms of security instruments in addition to surety bonds and letters of credits. *Id.* at 14. Specifically, as relevant to this Petition, the Commission stated that:

an EGS could rely on a parental or corporate guarantee, in a form acceptable to the Commission, where the parent or corporate relation maintains an investment-grade long-term bond rating from at least two of the four following rating agencies:

•	Standard & Poors	BBB- or higher
•	Moody's Investors' Services	Baa3 or higher
•	Fitch IBCA	BBB- or higher
•	Duff and Phelps Credit	BBB- or higher

- 4. The Commission also requested that EGSs seeking to revise their financial security requirements provide the following information with the request:
  - Gross revenues for the sale of electricity to retail customers in Pennsylvania for the most recent 12 months;
  - The amount of gross receipts taxes that the EGS has prepaid towards its estimated revenues for the current calendar year;
  - Submit documentation, if the EGS is proposing to utilize a parental or corporate guarantee, that demonstrates that the guarantor meets the required long-term bond rating from two of the approved rating agencies;
  - Available AEPS compliance data from the most recent 12 months; and.
  - Copies of all Department of Revenue documents that support the EGS's request.
  - 5. In support of its Petition, Direct Energy is including the following attachments:

Attachment	<b>Description</b>
· A	Direct Energy's gross revenues for the sale of electricity to retail
CONFIDENTIAL	customers in Pennsylvania from September 1, 2013 through
	October 31, 2014
В	Documentation from the State Department of Revenue Verifying
CONFIDENTIAL	Payment of Gross Receipts Estimated 2014 Liability
С	Corporate Guarantee of Centrica plc
CONFIDENTIAL	
D	Affidavit of Andrew Sunderman attesting to: (a) detailing the
	corporate process by which the guarantee can be made; (b)
	listing the long-term bond rating from Standard & Poors, and,
	Moody's Investors' Services and certifying that Centrica plc
	maintains an investment grade long-term bond rating; and, (c)
	certifying that Direct Energy will notify the Commission if
	these ratings fall below investment grade.

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	E	Available AEPS compliance data from the most recent 12
		months'
	F	Proof of payment of Pennsylvania taxes for 2012-2014
	<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	
6	Direct Energy s	ubmits that this supporting documentation is consistent with the

6. Direct Energy submits that this supporting documentation is consistent with the Commission's *Financial Security Order* and provides appropriate support to grant its Petition. Importantly, granting Direct Energy's Petition will not in any way impede Direct Energy's ability to comply with 66 Pa. C.S. § 2809(c) or 52 Pa Code § 54.40(a) which requires Direct Energy to maintain enough financial security to ensure financial responsibility, the payment of gross receipts tax and the supply of electricity at retail. Finally, granting Direct Energy's petition will enable Direct Energy to better allocate resources to developing retail products for the benefit of consumers.

7. Direct Energy is prepared to work with the Commission's Bureau of Technical Utility Services to process this request and provide any additional input as needed.

WHEREFORE, Direct Energy respectfully requests that the Commission grant this petition and permit Direct Energy to maintain financial security in the amount of 5% of its last twelve months of revenue secured through a parental guarantee provided by Centrica plc.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Clearfield, Esquire

Attorney ID 26183

Deanne M. O'Dell, Esquire

Attorney ID 81064

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LL

213 Market St., 8th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101

717.237.6000

Fax 717.237.6019

Attorneys for Direct Energy Business,

RECEIVED

Date: November 25, 2014

# Attachment D

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### **AFFIDAVIT**

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HARRIS

Before me, the undersigned notary public, on this day personally appeared

ANDREW SUNDERMAN, to me known to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

"I, ANDREW SUMPERMAN, the undersigned authority, on this day understand Direct Energy's credit process in which the letter of credit request has been processed and approved through our parent company, Centrica plc. The letter of credit requested amount was derived from annual Pennsylvania revenues specific to Direct Energy Business, LLC. Centrica plc currently has long term rating of A3, Not on Watch with Moody's Investors' Services and a long term rating of A- with Standard & Poors.

I attest that these investment grades will continue to maintain long term ratings for the foreseeable future. If long term ratings for Centrica plc fall below Moody's Investors' Services of Baa3 and Standard & Poors BBB-, Direct Energy will notify the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission and provide an alternative form of financial security to the Commission. I am the Chief Financial Officer for Direct Energy to sign-off."

Further affiant sayeth not.

**Authorized Signature** 

ANDREW SUNDERMAN, CFO - DIRECT ENERGY

Printed Name / Printed Title

Sworn and subscribed before me this

Joann L. McLaughlin

Notary Public

My Commission Expires On:

4/23/2017

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# Attachment E

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# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that this day I served a copy of Direct Energy's Petition to Revise its Current Bond/Security (Public Version) upon the persons listed below in the manner indicated in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code Section 1.54.

# Via First Class Mail

Office of Consumer Advocate 555 Walnut Street 5th Floor Forum Place Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

Office of Attorney General Office of Consumer Protection 14th Floor Strawberry Square Harrisburg, PA 17120

Office of Small Business Advocate Commerce Building, Suite 202 300 North Second Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

Legal Department West Penn Power d/b/a Allegheny Power 800 Cabin Hill Drive Greensburg, PA 15601-1689

Regulatory Affairs Duquesne Light Company 411 Seventh Street, MD 16-4 Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Met-Ed, Penelec, and Penn Power: Legal Department First Energy 2800 Pottsville Pike Reading PA, 19612

Dated: November 25, 2014

Citizens' Electric Company Attn: EGS Coordination 1775 Industrial Boulevard Lewisburg, PA 17837

Wellsboro Electric Company Attn: EGS Coordination 33 Austin Street P. O. Box 138 Wellsboro, PA 16901

Manager Energy Acquisition PECO Energy Company 2301 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19101-8699

Legal Department Attn: Paul Russell PPL Two North Ninth Street Allentown, PA 18108-1179

UGI Utilities, Inc.
Attn: Rates Dept. – Choice Coordinator
2525 N. 12th Street, Suite 360
Post Office Box 12677
Reading, Pa 19612-2677

Director of Customer Energy Services
Orange and Rockland Company

390 West Route 59

Spring Valley, NY 10977-5300

Deanne M. O'Dell, Esq.

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