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September 6, 2016

### VIA HAND DELIVERY

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 2nd Floor Harrisburg, PA 17120

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Re:

Petition of Hudson Energy Services LLC for a Reduction in Level of Bonding

Docket No. A-2010-2192137

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

Enclosed please find Hudson Energy Services LLC's ("Hudson") Petition for a Renewal of Reduced Bonding Level Authorization ("Petition"). This filing includes commercially valuable and sensitive information for which Hudson requests confidential treatment. Accordingly, enclosed is a version of the Petition marked "Public Version" for inclusion in the public record, and a version of the Petition marked "Confidential Version". Hudson respectfully requests that the Confidential Version of its Petition be maintained by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("Commission") under seal. Also enclosed is a filing fee in the amount of \$350.00.

Copies of Hudson's Public Version of its Petition have been served on each of the Public Advocates, the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Commission's Bureau of Technical Utility Services, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Revenue, the Office of Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection and all Pennsylvania electric distribution companies as indicated in the attached Certificate of Service.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions regarding this filing. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours

JFP/bb **Enclosures** 

cc: Certificate of Service



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## PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION SECRETARY'S BUREAU BEFORE THE

Petition of Hudson Energy Services LLC

Docket No. A-2010-2192137

For A Renewal of Reduced Bonding Level Authorization

### PETITION OF HUDSON ENERGY SERVICES LLC FOR A RENEWAL OF REDUCED BONDING LEVEL AUTHORIZATION

### I. Introduction

- 1. Hudson Energy Services LLC ("Hudson" or "Company") is an electric generation supplier ("EGS") authorized by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PaPUC" or "Commission") to provide electric generation supplier services to residential, small commercial, large commercial, industrial and governmental customers in all electric distribution company service territories within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Hudson received its license to operate as an EGS by Order of February 11, 2011 at Docket No. A-2010-2192137. As a licensed EGS, Hudson is subject to the Commission's authority to require it to furnish a bond or other security in order to operate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to Section 2809(c) of the Public Utility Code ("Code") and Section 54.40 of the Commission's regulations. 66 Pa. C. S. §2809(c); 52 Pa.Code §54.40.
- 2. Section 54.40(d) of the Commission's regulations requires EGSs to provide a security level of 10% of the licensee's reported gross receipts. However, a licensee may seek approval from the Commission of an alternative level of bonding, commensurate with the nature and scope of its operations. 52 Pa. Code §54.40(d). According to the Commission's regulations, the purpose of the bond is to ensure payment of the Pennsylvania Gross Receipts Tax ("GRT") and to ensure the supply of electricity at the retail level in accordance with contracts, agreements or arrangements. 52 Pa. Code §54.40(f)(2). On July 24, 2014, after consideration of formal

comments submitted to a December 5, 2013 Tentative Order, the Commission found that requiring an EGS to post a bond or security in the amount of 10% of gross receipts after the first year of operation "may be excessive in relation to the risk intended to be secured, unnecessarily burdening EGSs, and presenting a potential barrier to entry into Pennsylvania's retail electric market." Therefore the Commission announced in the July 24, 2014 Order that it was adopting the policy of accepting Petitions by EGSs to reduce their level of bonding/security after the first year of operation to 5% of the EGS's most recent 12 months of gross revenue or \$250,000, whichever is higher. In addition, the July 24, 2014 Order delegated authority to review uncontested requests for a reduction in the level of bonding to the Bureau of Technical Utility Services.<sup>2</sup>

3. Based on the July 24, 2014 Order, the Code, and the Commission's regulation at Section 54.40(d), Hudson filed a bond reduction petition to reduce its bond with the PaPUC from 10% to 5% of the Company's most recent twelve (12) months of revenue on November 10, 2015. By Secretarial Letter dated December 22, 2015, the PaPUC granted Hudson's bond reduction petition effective December 22, 2015. Thereafter, annually, Hudson must provide continued documentation of its eligibility for a bond reduction with the Commission's annual bond review pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Section 54.40(d). Therefore, Hudson provides the following material in support of its request that the Commission approve a continued reduction in its security requirement to 5% of its most recent 12 months of gross revenue.

<sup>2</sup> July 24, 2014 Order at 12-13.

Public Utility Commission Bonding/Security Requirements for Electric Generation Suppliers; Acceptable Security Instruments, Docket No. M-2013-2393141 (July 24, 2014) ("July 24, 2014 Order") at 10.

### II. <u>Information Provided in Support of Bond Reduction Request</u>

- 4. This Petition includes Confidential Attachments 1 and 2. Confidential Attachment 1 provides Hudson's gross revenues for the sale of electricity to retail customers in Pennsylvania for the most recent four (4) quarters.
- 5. Confidential Attachment 2 is a Tax Status Letter of Good Standing obtained by Hudson from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue ("DOR").
- 6. Based on the foregoing information which demonstrates that the Company is in compliance with the Commission's requirements for a security reduction renewal, Hudson requests that its bonding requirement continue to be reduced to 5% of its most recent twelve (12) months of gross revenue. This amount is reasonable and satisfies the requirements of Section 2809(c) of the Public Utility Code ("Code") and Section 54.40 of the Commission's regulations. 66 Pa.C.S. §2809(c); 52 Pa. Code §54.40.

### III. Relief Requested and Conclusion

7. Based on its standing as an EGS licensed to do business in Pennsylvania, the Commission's regulations and the July 24, 2014 Order, Hudson respectfully requests that it be authorized to continue to maintain its current bond security on file with the Commission at 5% of its most recent twelve (12) months of revenue. Upon approval of this Petition by the Commission, Hudson's current bond on file with the Commission will comply with the Commission's bond requirements for EGSs listed in Section 55.40(f) of the Commission's regulations. 52 Pa. Code §54.40(f).

### **PUBLIC VERSION**

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 6, 2016

John F. Povilaitis

Brichanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC 409 North Second Street

Suite 500

Harrisburg, PA 17101

(717) 237-4825

Counsel for Hudson Energy Services LLC

# CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT 1

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# CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT 2

RECEIVED

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION SECRETARY 5 BUREAU

### **VERIFICATION**

I, Charles C.S. Iannello, Vice President, U.S. Regulatory Affairs, Just Energy Group Inc., hereby verify that the information in the foregoing Petition of Hudson Energy Services, LLC for a Renewal of Reduced Bonding Level Authorization filed at Docket No. A-2010-2192137, is true and correct to the best of my information, knowledge and belief. I understand that the statements are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. Section 4904, relating to the unsworn falsification to authorities.

Charle C. S. Danul G. Signature

Dated: September 6, 2016

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION SECRETARY'S BUREAU

### BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Petition of Hudson Energy Services LLC

Docket No. A-2010-2192137

For A Renewal of Reduced Bonding Level

Reduction in Level Authorization

Docket 110: 11-2010-21/213

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the **public version** of the attached document upon the parties, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of § 1.54 (relating to service by a party).

### Via First Class Mail

Small Business Advocate Commerce Building, Suite 1102 300 North Second Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

Michael L. Swindler Wayne T. Scott Stephanie Wimer Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement PO Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

John M. Abel Margarita Tulman Office of Attorney General Bureau of Consumer Protection 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Strawberry Square Harrisburg, PA 17120

Candis A. Tunilo Christy M. Appleby Kristine E. Robinson Office of Consumer Advocate 555 Walnut Street 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Forum Place Harrisburg, PA 17101 Kirk House.

Director of Office of Competitive Market

Oversight

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 3rd Floor, Room N-309 Harrisburg, PA 17105

Bureau of Technical Utility Services Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 3rd Floor Harrisburg, PA 17105

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

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

Regulatory Affairs Duquesne Light Company 411 Seventh Street, MD 16-4 Pittsburgh, PA 5219

#### PUBLIC VERSION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Revenue Bureau of Compliance Harrisburg, PA 17128-0946 Legal Department Attn: Paul Russell

PPL Two North Ninth Street Allentown, PA 18108-1179

**Director of Customer Energy Services** Orange and Rockland Company 390 West Route 59 Spring Valley, NY 10977-5300

UGI Utilities, Inc. Attn: Rates Dept. – Choice Coordinator 2525 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 360 P.O. Box 12677 Reading, PA 19612-2677

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

Legal Department First Energy 2800 Pottsville Pike Reading, PA 19612

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