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February 24, 2023

<u>VIA E-FILING (PUBLIC VERSION) AND</u> <u>SECRETARY'S SHAREPOINT SITE (CONFIDENTIAL VERSION)</u>

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

Re: Hudson Energy Services, LLC, Request for Reduction in Security Filing

Docket No. A-2010-2192137

Utility Code: 1112538

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed is the Request for Reduction in Security Filing ("Request for Reduction in Security") of Hudson Energy Services, LLC, ("Hudson"), a licensed energy generation supplier ("EGS").

The Request for Reduction in Security includes commercially valuable and sensitive information for which Hudson requests confidential treatment. Accordingly, enclosed is a version of the Request for Reduction in Security marked "Public Version" for inclusion in the public record, and a version of the Request for Reduction in Security marked "Confidential Version". Hudson respectfully requests that the Confidential Version of its Request for Reduction in Security be maintained by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission under seal.

Please note that we are filing the public version electronically on the Commission's website and the confidential version is being uploaded to the Secretary's SharePoint site.

Copies of the Public Version of Hudson's Request for Reduction in Security have been served on each of the statutory parties, 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 affected Pennsylvania electric distribution companies, as indicated in the attached Certificate of Service.

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

Very truly yours,

John F. Povilaitis

JFP/kas Enclosures

cc: Certificate of Service

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Hudson Energy Services, LLC : Docket No. A-2010-2192137

Security Compliance Filing :

HUDSON ENERGY SERVICES, LLC BOND REDUCTION FILING

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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 the 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 applications 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. ² In an Order entered September 20, 2018, the Commission streamlined the process for EGSs to obtain reductions in their annual security obligations and permitted, inter alia, the filing of a Compliance Filing for renewal of security rather than a formal Petition.³

- 3. Based on the July 24, 2014 Order, the September 20, 2018 Order, the Code, the Commission's regulation at Section 54.40(d) and the following supporting material, Hudson respectfully requests that the Commission accept and approve its request for a reduction of bond requirements to 5% of its most recent 12 months of gross revenues.
- 4. By Secretarial Letter Dated October 12, 2017 at Docket No. A-2010-2192137, Utility Code: 1112538, the Commission approved Hudson's September 6, 2017 Petition for a security reduction, effective to December 9, 2018. Subsequently, the Commission restored Hudson's required security to 10% due to a pending insolvency proceeding. Hudson currently

¹ 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.

² July 24, 2014 Order at 12-13.

³ Petition of the Retail Energy Supply Association to Simplify the Financial Security 5% Renewal Process, Docket No. P-2017-2608078 (Oder Entered September 20, 2018) at 17-20.

maintains a 10% security level with the Commission and the expiration date for its current security is November 30, 2023.

II. <u>Confidential Information Provided in Support of Security Bond</u> <u>Reduction Filing</u>

- 5. This Bond Reduction Filing includes Confidential Attachments 1 through 6. Confidential Attachment 1 provides Hudson's gross revenues for the sale of electricity to retail customers in Pennsylvania for the most recent twelve (12) months. Confidential Attachment 2 is a Tax Status Letter of Good Standing obtained by Hudson from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue ("DOR").
- 6. Confidential Attachment 2 is a Statement of Account showing tax payments obtained by Hudson from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue ("DOR").
- 7. Confidential Attachment 3 documents Hudson's full compliance with the requirements of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards ("AEPS") Act.
- 8. Confidential Attachment 4 is a current Department of Revenue RCT-SPEC Specialty Tax Payment Form for Hudson. Upon request and availability, Hudson will supply the Specialty Tax Payment Form for the 2023 tax year.
- 9. Confidential Attachment 5 is proof that Hudson has paid its standard Annual Assessment fee to the PaPUC for regulatory costs.
- 10. Confidential Attachment 6 is an Affidavit and supporting materials providing proof of Hudson's successful emergence from insolvency status.
- 11. Based on the foregoing information, Hudson proposes to meet its current security requirement with security reflecting 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 Code and Section 54.40 of the Commission's regulations. 66 Pa.C. S. §2809(c); 52 Pa. Code §54.40. An

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original security document will be submitted to the Commission when the correct amount of

annual security, based on the most recent twelve (12) months of gross revenues, is confirmed by

Commission Staff.

III. Relief Requested and Conclusion

12. Hudson respectfully requests that its request for reduction of required security to

5% be accepted and approved and that the Commission Staff confirm the correct amount of annual

security the Company shall submit. Hudson also requests that its new expiration date for reduced

required security be set as on or before March 25, 2024. Thereupon Hudson shall promptly provide

the Commission with an original security document that complies 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).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 24, 2023

John F. Povilaitis

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

409 North Second Street

Suite 500

Harrisburg, PA 17101

(717) 237-4825

Counsel for Just Energy Solutions Inc.

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Gross revenues for the sale of electricity to retail customers in Pennsylvania for the most recent twelve (12) months

(January 2022 to December 2022)

PA DOR Statement of Account

Confidential Attachment 3 AEPS Compliance

Confidential Attachment 4 RCT-SPEC Specialty Tax Payment Form

Proof of PaPUC Assessments Payment

Affidavit of Jonah T. Davids

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Hudson Energy Services, LLC : Docket No. A-2010-2192137

Security Compliance Filing :

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

Via First Class Mail

Office of Small Business Advocate Forum Place 555 Walnut Street, 1st Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement PO Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Office of Attorney General Bureau of Consumer Protection 15th Floor, Strawberry Square Harrisburg, PA 17120

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

Office of Consumer Advocate 555 Walnut Street 5th Floor, Forum Place Harrisburg, PA 17101 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Revenue Bureau of Compliance PO Box 280947 Harrisburg, PA 17128

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

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

PUBLIC VERSION

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

Office of General Counsel Attn: Kimberly Klock PPL Two North Ninth Street Allentown, PA 18108-1179

UGI Utilities, Inc. Attn: Rates Dept. – Choice Coordinator 2525 N. 12th Street, Suite 360 P.O. Box 12677 Reading, PA 19612-2677 Manager Energy Acquisition PECO Energy Company 2301 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19101-8699

Vice President – Energy Supply Corning Natural Gas Holding Corporation 330 West William Street Corning, NY 14830

Dated this 24th day of February 2023.

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