## STATE OF CONNECTICUT PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PETITION OF GEORGE

DOCKET NO. 12-07-13

JEPSEN, ATTORNEY

EPSEN, ATTORNET

GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF

CONNECTICUT, AND THE OFFICE

OF CONSUMER COUNSEL FOR AN

INVESTIGATION INTO THE

MANNER AND OPERATION OF

ENERGY PLUS HOLDINGS, LLC

MAY 22, 2014

## $\frac{\text{JOINT MOTION TO ACCEPT SETTLEMENT, WITHDRAW PETITION AND CLOSE}}{\text{PROCEEDINGS}}$

George Jepsen, Attorney General for the State of Connecticut ("Attorney General"), Elin Swanson Katz, Consumer Counsel, and Energy Plus Holdings, LLC, (the "Settling Parties") hereby move to have the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ("PURA" or "Authority") accept the settlement agreement ("Settlement Agreement") attached as Exhibit A, and, upon acceptance, (i) further move to withdraw the above-referenced Petition filed on July 26, 2012, and (ii) request that the Authority close this proceeding. This request is made pursuant to an agreement whereby Energy Plus will make a \$4.5 million payment to the State of Connecticut to be used by the Authority for the purposes of enhancing consumer education, consumer assistance, and the enforcement of State laws and regulations in Connecticut's electric supplier market. See, House Bill 5597, An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015. Specifically, Section 67 of that budget implementer bill provides:

(Effective from passage) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 16-41 of the general statutes, the amount of the settlement executed prior to June 30, 2014, between the office of the Attorney General and an electricity supplier shall be deposited into a separate nonlapsing account to fund activity by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for expenses relating to consumer assistance, consumer education and enforcement activity relating to electricity suppliers. Funds from the account shall be made available to the authority following the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. The authority

shall only use such funds for the purposes, in such amounts and at such times as approved by the secretary.

With this donation, the Petitioners consider this matter fully and adequately resolved. Moreover, the Settling Parties represent that this Settlement is in the public interest and waive their right to conduct any further hearings or proceedings in this matter. The Settling Parties note that the budget implementer bill addresses the proceeds of a "settlement executed prior to June 30, 2014" and, consistent with that provision, request that the Authority approve this settlement as soon as possible.

The Settling Parties therefore request that the Authority accept the Settlement Agreement.

Upon acceptance, the petitioners Attorney General and Consumer Counsel move to withdraw the Petition and the Settling Parties request the Authority close these proceedings.

#### Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE JEPSEN ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:

John S. Wright

Michael C. Wertheimer Assistant Attorneys General Attorney General's Office 10 Franklin Square

New Britain, CT 06051 Tel: 860-827-2620 Fax: 860-827-2893

ELIN SWANSON KATZ CONSUMER COUNSEL

By:

Joseph Rosenthal Principal Attorney

Office of Consumer Counsel

10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051 Tel: (860) 827-2906 Fax: (860) 827-2929

**ENERGY PLUS HOLDINGS** 

By:

Catherine L. Sakach Senior Counsel

Energy Plus Holdings, LLC

Service is hereby certified to all parties and intervenors on this agency's service list for this proceeding.

ohn S. Wright

Assistant Attorney General

# Exhibit A

#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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JEPSEN, ATTORNEY

GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF :

CONNECTICUT, AND THE OFFICE

OF CONSUMER COUNSEL FOR AN

INVESTIGATION INTO THE

MANNER AND OPERATION OF :

ENERGY PLUS HOLDINGS, LLC : MAY 15, 2014

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PETITION OF GEORGE :

DOCKET NO. 12-07-13

JEPSEN, ATTORNEY

GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF

CONNECTICUT, AND THE OFFICE

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MANNER AND OPERATION OF

ENERGY PLUS HOLDINGS, LLC

MAY 15, 2014

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, this Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Energy Plus Holdings, LLC ("Energy Plus" or the "Company"), George Jepsen, Attorney General for the State of Connecticut ("Attorney General"), and Elin Swanson Katz, Consumer Counsel, on behalf of the State of Connecticut, Office of Consumer Counsel ("OCC") (collectively, the "Settling Parties"), in connection with the above-captioned matter pending before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ("Authority");

WHEREAS, the Attorney General and the Consumer Counsel filed their Petition for an investigation into the manner and operation of Energy Plus ("Petition"), and the Settling Parties subsequently have engaged in discovery and negotiations concerning the matters addressed in the Petition;

WHEREAS, the Settling Parties have raised competing and disputed claims with regard to the various issues related to the Petition, but wish to resolve those issues on mutually agreeable terms, and without establishing any precedent or principles applicable to any other proceedings; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Authority, consistent with Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-19jj, to encourage the use of settlements to resolve contested cases and proceedings.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the exchange of promises and covenants herein contained, the legal sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Settling Parties agree, subject to approval by the Authority, as follows:

#### ARTICLE 1: FINANCIAL CONDITIONS - ADVANCING STATE POLICY GOALS

<u>Voluntary Donation</u>: Energy Plus shall make a one-time \$4.5 million payment to the State of Connecticut to be used by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for the purposes of enhancing consumer education, consumer assistance, and the enforcement of State laws and regulations in Connecticut's electric supplier market. This payment is voluntary and does not constitute restitution, civil penalty or disgorgement. The payment shall be made within thirty (30) days following the Authority's final decision approving this settlement and closing this docket.

#### ARTICLE 2: RELEASE OF CLAIMS

2. Release of Claims: The Attorney General and the Consumer Counsel, individually and, respectively, on behalf of the State of Connecticut and the OCC, withdraw and release all claims against Energy Plus and its directors, officers, employees, parent companies, affiliates, successors and assigns arising out of or relating to any matter referred to or described in the Petition. Energy Plus will not assert and does release any claims against the State, the Attorney General or the Consumer Counsel arising out of or relating to any matter referred to or described in the Petition. The Attorney General and the Consumer Counsel shall move to withdraw the Petition and request that the Authority close this proceeding. With this voluntary donation, the Attorney General and the Consumer Counsel consider this matter fully and adequately resolved.

#### ARTICLE 3: AUTHORITY APPROVALS AND OTHER CONDITIONS

- 3.1 <u>Settlement Approval</u>: The Settling Parties assert that, if the Authority does not approve this Settlement Agreement in its entirety, this filing shall be deemed to be withdrawn, the releases of claims referred to in Article 2 shall be deemed rescinded, and the Settlement Agreement shall not constitute a part of the record in any proceeding or used for any other purpose.
- 3.2 The provisions of this Settlement Agreement are not severable. This Settlement Agreement is conditioned on its full approval by the Authority without additional conditions or requirements.
- 3.3 This Settlement Agreement shall not be deemed in any respect to constitute an admission by any party that any allegation or contention in this proceeding is true or false. Except as specified in this Settlement Agreement to accomplish the State's policy goals intended by this Settlement Agreement, the entry of an order by the Authority approving the Settlement Agreement shall not in any respect constitute a determination by the Authority as to the merits of any other issue raised in this proceeding.
- 3.4 The making of this Settlement Agreement establishes no principles and shall not be deemed to foreclose any party from making any contention in any proceeding

or investigation, except as to those issues and proceedings that are stated in this Settlement Agreement as being specifically resolved and terminated by approval of this Settlement Agreement.

The signatories listed below represent that they are authorized on behalf of their principals to enter into this Settlement Agreement.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

By:

George Jepsen Attorney General State of Connecticut 55 Elm Street Hartford, CT 06106 OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL

Elin Swanson Katz

Consumer Counsel

Office of Consumer Counsel

Ten Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

#### ENERGY PLUS HOLDINGS, LLC

Ву	:	
-	James Steffes	
	Energy Plus Holdings, LLC	

Dated: May/5, 2014

or investigation, except as to those issues and proceedings that are stated in this Settlement Agreement as being specifically resolved and terminated by approval of this Settlement Agreement.

The signatories listed below represent that they are authorized on behalf of their principals to enter into this Settlement Agreement.

### ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Ву:

George Jepsen Attorney General State of Connecticut 55 Elm Street Hartford, CT 06106 OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL

Elin Swanson Katz

Consumer Counsel

Office of Consumer Counsel

Ten Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

ENERGY PLUS HOLDINGS, LLC

James Steffes

Energy Plus Holdings, LLC

Dated: May 15, 2014