

prorated, allocated and spread throughout the full term of such indebtedness until payment in full of the principal (including the period of any renewal or extension thereof) so that the interest on account of such indebtedness shall not exceed the Highest Lawful Rate. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any Loan Document, it is understood and agreed that if at any time the rate of interest that accrues on the outstanding principal balance of any Loan shall exceed the Highest Lawful Rate, the rate of interest that accrues on the outstanding principal balance of any Loan shall be limited to the Highest Lawful Rate, but any subsequent reductions in the rate of interest that accrues on the outstanding principal balance of any Loan shall not reduce the rate of interest that accrues on the outstanding principal balance of any Loan below the Highest Lawful Rate until the total amount of interest accrued on the outstanding principal balance of any Loan equals the amount of interest that would have accrued if such interest rate had at all times been in effect. The terms and provisions of this Section 10.15 shall control and supersede every other provision of all Loan Documents.

SECTION 10.16. Removal of Bank. Notwithstanding anything herein or in any other Loan Document to the contrary, the Borrower may, at any time in its sole discretion, remove any Bank upon 15 Business Days' written notice to such Bank and the Administrative Agent (the contents of which notice shall be promptly communicated by the Administrative Agent to each other Bank), such removal to be effective at the expiration of such 15-day notice period; provided, however, that no Bank may be removed hereunder at a time when an Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing. Each notice by the Borrower under this Section 10.16 shall constitute a representation by the Borrower that the removal described in such notice is permitted under this Section 10.16. Concurrently with such removal, the Borrower shall pay to such removed Bank all amounts owing to such Bank hereunder (including any amounts arising under Section 3.7 as a consequence of such removal) and under any other Loan Document in immediately available funds. Upon full and final payment hereunder of all amounts owing to such removed Bank, such Bank shall make appropriate entries in its accounts evidencing payment of all Loans hereunder and releasing the Borrower from all obligations owing to the removed Bank in respect of the Loans hereunder and surrender to the Administrative Agent for return to the Borrower any Notes of the Borrower then held by it. Effective immediately upon such full and final payment, such removed Bank will not be considered to be a "Bank" for purposes of this Agreement, except for the purposes of any provision hereof that by its terms survives the termination of this Agreement and the payment of the amounts payable hereunder.

SECTION 10.17. Confidentiality. Each of the Banks and the Administrative Agent agrees to maintain, and to use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause any third party recipient of the information described in this Section 10.17 to maintain, any information delivered or made available by the Borrower to it (including any information obtained pursuant to Section 7.1), confidential from anyone other than Persons employed or retained by such party who are or are expected to become engaged in evaluating, approving, structuring or administering the transactions contemplated hereunder, provided that nothing shall prevent any Bank or the Administrative Agent from disclosing such information (i) to any other Bank or any Affiliate of any Bank, (ii) pursuant to subpoena or upon the order of any court or administrative agency having jurisdiction over such Bank or the Administrative Agent, as the case may be, (iii) upon the request or demand of any Governmental Authority or self-regulatory body, in each case, having jurisdiction over such Bank or the Administrative Agent, as the case may be, (iv) if such information has been publicly disclosed (other than by reason of disclosure by any Bank or

the Administrative Agent in breach of its obligations under this Section 10.17), (v) to the extent reasonably required in connection with any litigation to which either the Administrative Agent, any Bank, the Borrower or their respective Affiliates may be a party relating to this Agreement or any other Loan Document, (vi) to the extent reasonably required in connection with the exercise of any remedy hereunder, (vii) to the Administrative Agent's or such Bank's, as the case may be, legal counsel, independent auditors and other professional advisors and agents involved in the administration of the Loans hereunder, (viii) to market data collectors, such as league table, or other service providers to the lending industry, in respect of information regarding the closing date, size, type, purpose of, and parties to, this Agreement, or (ix) to any actual or proposed Participant, Purchasing Bank, hedge counterparty in respect of this Agreement or pledgee (each, a "Transferee") that has agreed in writing to be bound by the provisions of this Section 10.17 or provisions at least as restrictive as those in this Section 10.17. To the extent permitted by applicable law, in the event that any Bank or the Administrative Agent is legally requested or required to disclose any confidential information pursuant to clause (ii), (iii) (unless such request (X) is from a bank regulatory agency or in connection with an examination of a Bank's records by bank examiners and (Y) does not target or impact Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries) or (v) of this Section 10.17, such party shall promptly notify the Borrower of such request or requirement prior to disclosure so that Borrower may seek an appropriate protective order and/or waive compliance with the terms of this Agreement. If, however, in the opinion of counsel for such party, such party is nonetheless, in the absence of such order or waiver, compelled to disclose such confidential information or otherwise stand liable for contempt or suffer possible censure or other penalty or liability, then such party may disclose such confidential information without liability to the Borrower; provided, however, that such party will use its commercially reasonable efforts to minimize the disclosure of such information. Subject to the exceptions above to disclosure of information, each of the Banks and the Administrative Agent agrees that it shall not publish, publicize, or otherwise make public any information regarding this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby without the written consent of the Borrower, in its sole discretion.

SECTION 10.18. Officer's Certificates. It is not intended that any certificate of any officer of the Borrower delivered to the Administrative Agent or any Bank pursuant to this Agreement shall give rise to any personal liability on the part of such officer.

SECTION 10.19. USA Patriot Act. Each Bank and the Administrative Agent (for itself and not on behalf of any Bank) hereby notifies the Borrower that, pursuant to the requirements of the USA Patriot Act (Title III of Pub. L. 107-56 (signed into law October 26, 2001)) (the "Patriot Act"), it is required to obtain, verify and record information that identifies the Borrower, which information includes the name and address of the Borrower and other information that will allow such Bank or the Administrative Agent, as applicable, to identify the Borrower in accordance with the Patriot Act. The Borrower shall, and shall cause each of its Subsidiaries to, provide, to the extent commercially reasonable, such information and take such actions as are reasonably requested by each Bank and the Administrative Agent to maintain compliance with the Patriot Act.

SECTION 10.20. No Advisory or Fiduciary Responsibility. The Borrower acknowledges and agrees, and acknowledges its Affiliates' understanding, that: (a) no fiduciary, advisory or agency relationship between the Borrower or any of its Affiliates, on the one hand, and the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger or any Bank, on the other hand, is intended to be or has been created in respect of this Agreement, irrespective of whether any such Person has advised or is advising the Borrower or any of its Affiliates on other matters, (b) each of the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger and the Banks, on the one hand, and the Borrower and its Affiliates, on the other hand, have an arm's length business relationship that does not directly or indirectly give rise to, nor do the Borrower and its Affiliates rely on, any fiduciary duty to them on the part of the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger or any Bank, (c) the Borrower and its Affiliates are capable of evaluating and understanding, and each of the Borrower and its Affiliates understands and accepts, the terms, risks and conditions of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and by the other Loan Documents, (d) the Borrower and its Affiliates have been advised that the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger and the Banks are engaged in a broad range of transactions that may involve interests that differ from the interests of the Borrower and its Affiliates and no such Person has any obligation to disclose such interests and transactions to the Borrower or any of its Affiliates, (e) the Borrower and its Affiliates have consulted their own legal, accounting, regulatory and tax advisors to the extent they have deemed appropriate, and (f) each of the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger and the Banks has been, is, and will be acting solely as a principal and, except as otherwise expressly agreed in writing by it and the relevant parties, has not been, is not, and will not be acting as an advisor, agent or fiduciary for the Borrower or any of its Affiliates or any other Person or entity in respect of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

[Signature Pages Follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective officers thereunto duly authorized, as of the date first above written.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC

By: /s/ Patricia L. Martin

Name: Patricia L. Martin

Title: Vice President and Treasurer

CHEE Term Loan Agreement Signature Page

By: /s/ Edward Sacks

Name: Edward Sacks

Title: Managing Director

CLIME Term Loan Agreement Signature Page

TD BANK, N.A., as a Bank

By: /s/ M. Bernadette Collins

Name: Bernadette Collins

Title: Senior Vice President

CLHE Term Loan Agreement Signature Page

By: /s/ John Prigge

Name: John Prigge

Title: Senior Vice President

CLHE Term Loan Agreement Signature Page

SCHEDULE 1.1**SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS AND ADDRESSES**

<u>Names and Address of Banks</u>	<u>Aggregate Commitment</u>
Mizuho Bank, Ltd.	S 100,000,000
TDBank, N.A.	S 100,000,000
U.S. Bank National Association	S 100,000,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>S 300,000,000</u>