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Filing Date - 2024-07-12 02:21:59 PM

Control Number - 56211

Item Number - 428

**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-24-13232
PUC DOCKET NO. 56211**

APPLICATION OF CENTERPOINT	§	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC	§	OF
FOR AUTHORITY TO CHANGE RATES	§	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

JASON M. RYAN

ON BEHALF OF

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC

July 12, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	3
II.	PURPOSE OF REBUTTAL TESTIMONY	3
III.	THE IMPORTANCE OF USING ACTUAL CAPITAL STRUCTURE	4

LIST OF EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT JMR-R-1	Joint Statement by Governor Abbott and Lieutenant Governor Patrick dated July 1, 2024
EXHIBIT JMR-R-2	CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Form 8-K dated June 24, 2024

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF JASON M. RYAN

I. INTRODUCTION

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, POSITION AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Jason M. Ryan. I am the Executive Vice President, Regulatory Services and Government Affairs for CenterPoint Energy, Inc., the parent company of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC (“CenterPoint Houston” or the “Company”). My business address is 1111 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING?

A. I am testifying on behalf of CenterPoint Houston.

Q. ARE YOU THE SAME JASON M. RYAN THAT FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS DOCKET?

A. Yes.

II. PURPOSE OF REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?

A. In my rebuttal testimony, I address the capital structure positions taken by several witnesses, including Michael Gorman on behalf of Texas Industrial Energy Consumers, Randall Woolridge on behalf of Texas Coast Utilities Coalition, Breandan T. Mac Mathuna on behalf of Houston Coalition of Cities, and Mark Filarowicz on behalf of Public Utility Commission of Texas (“Commission”) Staff. And, I contrast their capital structure testimony with the recent joint statement by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor that called for “an immediate review of all policies concerning the grid,” which is based on the same rationale that I presented in my direct testimony for why the capital structure used in utility rates needs to be

1 the *actual* capital structure: growth in demand for capital expenditure to meet the
2 needs of a growing state and unprecedented growth in electric usage.

3 **Q. HOW DOES YOUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY RELATE TO THE**
4 **REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF OTHER WITNESSES WHO ARE**
5 **COVERING RELATED TOPICS?**

6 A. Company witnesses Ann Bulkley and Jacqueline Richert address the specific
7 arguments made by intervenor witnesses regarding capital structure and return on
8 equity. My rebuttal testimony addresses the policy reasons the Commission should
9 reject intervenor recommendations to adopt a *hypothetical* capital structure and
10 should instead approve the Company's *actual* 55.1%/44.9% debt/equity ratio. I
11 also explain why, contrary to intervenor arguments, the Commission can approve
12 (and has previously approved) the Company's actual capital structure while
13 maintaining customer affordability.

14 **Q. WAS THIS REBUTTAL TESTIMONY PREPARED BY YOU OR UNDER**
15 **YOUR DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL?**

16 A. Yes.

17 **III. THE IMPORTANCE OF USING ACTUAL CAPITAL STRUCTURE**

18 **Q. WHAT DO INTERVENOR WITNESSES RECOMMEND FOR**
19 **CENTERPOINT HOUSTON WITH REGARD TO CAPITAL**
20 **STRUCTURE?**

21 A. The intervenor witnesses listed above each recommend the Commission calculate
22 the Company's revenue requirement using a *hypothetical* rather than *actual* capital
23 structure and support treating Electric Reliability Council of Texas ("ERCOT")
24 transmission and distribution utilities ("TDUs") differently than other Texas

1 utilities. For non-ERCOT electric utilities and water utilities, the Commission
2 generally uses *actual* capital structure. The Railroad Commission of Texas does
3 the same for gas utilities, including the Company’s affiliate, CenterPoint Energy
4 Resources Corp.

5 **Q. ON WHAT BASIS DO INTERVENOR WITNESSES JUSTIFY IGNORING**
6 **CENTERPOINT HOUSTON’S ACTUAL CAPITAL STRUCTURE IN**
7 **FAVOR OF A HYPOTHETICAL CAPITAL STRUCTURE?**

8 A. The intervenor witnesses offer a few arguments for denying CenterPoint Houston
9 its actual capital structure.

- 10 • The Commission has used a hypothetical capital structure since unbundling the
11 ERCOT market, and there is no reason to change now.¹
- 12 • The Commission used a 42.5% equity ratio in the most recent cases for
13 CenterPoint Houston and Oncor.²
- 14 • TDUs have lower risk than vertically integrated utilities and should therefore
15 have their rates set using a lower equity ratio.³
- 16 • It is necessary to ignore the Company’s actual capital structure and set rates
17 using a hypothetical capital structure, because using the Company’s actual
18 capital structure would threaten customer affordability.⁴

¹ See, e.g., Direct Testimony of Mark Filarowicz (“Filarowicz Direct”) at 32:3-9 (Jun. 26, 2024).

² See, e.g., Direct Testimony of Mark P. Gorman (“Gorman Direct”) at 28 (Table 5) (Jun. 19, 2024); Direct Testimony of J. Randall Woolridge, Ph.D. at 27:9-10 (Jun. 19, 2024); Direct Testimony of Breandan T. Mac Mathuna (“Mac Mathuna Direct”) at 18:1-3 (Jun. 19, 2023).

³ See, e.g., Gorman Direct at 36:17-20; Mac Mathuna Direct at 17:15-16.

⁴ See, e.g., Gorman Direct at 26:7-15.

1 **Q. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE ARGUMENT THAT THE**
2 **COMMISSION SHOULD CONTINUE TO USE A HYPOTHETICAL**
3 **CAPITAL STRUCTURE TODAY, JUST AS IT DID OVER TWO DECADES**
4 **AGO WHEN IT FIRST UNBUNDLED ERCOT ELECTRIC UTILITIES?**

5 A. My direct testimony includes a more detailed review of the Commission’s original
6 decision—born of necessity—to use a hypothetical capital structure for the newly
7 unbundled TDUs, which had not yet begun operating and, therefore, did not yet
8 have an actual capital structure. Mr. Filarowicz suggests that it is appropriate to
9 continue using a hypothetical capital structure a quarter of a century later because
10 the “same factors and circumstances . . . persist to this day.”⁵ I disagree for two
11 reasons.

12 First, the circumstance that drove the initial decision to use a hypothetical
13 capital structure for TDUs—the absence of actual capital structures—does not
14 actually persist to this day. The ERCOT TDUs have been operating for nearly
15 25 years and each has an actual capital structure that could be used. As noted in
16 my direct testimony, the Commission had always used actual capital structures
17 prior to unbundling,⁶ the Commission continues to use actual capital structures for
18 non-ERCOT electric utilities,⁷ and the Railroad Commission of Texas uses actual
19 capital structures for gas utilities, like CenterPoint Houston’s gas utility affiliate.⁸

⁵ Filarowicz Direct at 32:3-9.

⁶ Direct Testimony of Jason M. Ryan (“Ryan Direct”) at 23:1-14 (Mar. 6, 2024).

⁷ *Id.* at 25:1-27:2.

⁸ *Id.* at 28:3-29:3.

Second, Mr. Filarowicz ignores my direct testimony laying out a number of significant factors that have changed dramatically in the intervening decades: increases in extreme weather, explosive growth in customer load, and higher customer expectations regarding quality of service.⁹ He also ignores recent statements by Commissioner Glotfelty and former Chairman Lake, quoted in my direct testimony, recognizing that TDU risk is quite different today than it was a quarter century ago. Commissioner Glotfelty pointed out that, after unbundling, the Commission assigned a 60%/40% debt to equity capital structure because “it wasn’t a really risky business, and now it is just getting much more risky.”¹⁰

Q. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO INTERVENOR WITNESSES WHO RELY ON THE COMMISSION HAVING USED A 42.5% EQUITY RATIO IN THE MOST RECENT CASES FOR CENTERPOINT HOUSTON AND ONCOR?

A. Reliance on the equity ratios used in the most recent rate cases for CenterPoint Houston (Docket No. 49421) and Oncor (Docket No. 53601) is problematic for multiple reasons.

First, CenterPoint Houston’s last rate case was settled, and the capital structure used to set rates in that case was the product of settlement negotiations. Mr. Filarowicz’s reference to the 42.5% equity ratio “that the Commission ordered in Docket No. 49421”¹¹ glosses over the give-and-take inherent in any settlement. Indeed, in the last base rate proceeding for CenterPoint Houston that was fully litigated, the Commission approved a 55%/45% debt/equity ratio that was very

⁹ Ryan Direct at 4:18-17:15.

¹⁰ Open Meeting Tr. at 217:20-218:1 (Mar. 9, 2023).

¹¹ Filarowicz Direct at 28:7-9.

1 similar to CenterPoint Houston's actual capital structure (54.8%/45.2%) at the end
2 of the test year used in that proceeding.¹²

3 Second, while better than the original 60%/40% hypothetical capital
4 structure used in the days of unbundling, the capital structures used in Docket Nos.
5 49421 and 53601 are still hypothetical. Simply replacing one hypothetical capital
6 structure with another hypothetical capital structure is poor policy.

7 Third, there is an inherent assumption in intervenors' and Commission
8 Staff's argument that all ERCOT TDUs should have a uniform capital structure.
9 As demonstrated in my direct testimony, no such assumption is made for non-
10 ERCOT electric utilities or for Texas gas utilities, all of whom generally have their
11 rates set using their *actual* capital structures, which differ from one another.
12 Assertions by intervenors that CenterPoint Houston and Oncor have similar risk,¹³
13 warranting identical capital structures, are not backed by any detailed analysis or
14 evidence of the risks faced by the two utilities—one a sprawling utility in north and
15 west Texas, the other a densely packed utility on the Texas Gulf Coast. To
16 underscore this point, Oncor described the May 2024 storm event—a storm that
17 caused outages for more than 650,000 of its customers—as the second-worst storm
18 in the company's 112-year history. CenterPoint Houston has experienced two
19 storm events that caused significantly more outages than that in the past two months
20 alone: nearly 922,000 in the May 2024 derecho event and more than 2.2 million
21 from Hurricane Beryl.

¹² See Ryan Direct at 25:8-15.

¹³ See, e.g., Mac Mathuna Direct at 18:1-3 ("CEHE has similar business and regulatory risks to Oncor.").

1 **Q. HAS THE COMMISSION ACTUALLY USED THE SAME CAPITAL**
 2 **STRUCTURE FOR ALL ERCOT TDUS?**

3 A. No, it has not. As noted in my direct testimony, Texas-New Mexico Power's
 4 current rates were set using a 55%/45% debt/equity ratio. Lone Star Transmission,
 5 LLC's current rates also include a 55%/45% debt/equity ratio and that ERCOT
 6 utility only manages transmission assets. And in Docket No. 38339, in which the
 7 Commission set CenterPoint Houston's rates using a 55%/45% debt/equity ratio,
 8 Commission Staff filed testimony that "it is prudent for utilities to be working
 9 toward having no more than 55% long-term debt in their capital structure."¹⁴ There
 10 has genuinely been no consistency in the Commission's use of a hypothetical
 11 capital structure.

12 **Q. DO YOU AGREE THAT TDUS IN TEXAS FACE LOWER RISKS THAN**
 13 **VERTICALLY INTEGRATED UTILITIES AND SHOULD THEREFORE**
 14 **HAVE THEIR RATES SET USING A HYPOTHETICAL CAPITAL**
 15 **STRUCTURE WITH A LOWER EQUITY RATIO?**

16 A. I do not. My direct testimony described a number of ways in which CenterPoint
 17 Houston's business faces considerably more risk today than ever before.

18 First, the Company's service area is experiencing explosive growth. The
 19 number of customers added each year since 2010 is about the same as the number
 20 of customers in the entire city of Waco.¹⁵

¹⁴ *Application of CenterPoint Houston Electric, LLC for Authority to Change Rates*, Docket No. 38339, Direct Testimony of Slade Cutter at 23:5-6 (Sept. 17, 2010).

¹⁵ Ryan Direct at 7:6-8.

Second, the Company must meet that increased demand in a geographic location that, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”), has the highest possible risk and vulnerability rating for flooding risk and hurricane risk and has a very high risk and vulnerability rating for severe storms and winter storms.¹⁶

Figure JMR-R-1
Risk and Vulnerability Ratings for Harris County
NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information¹³

Risk and Vulnerability

Data Type	Census Tract 5505	Harris County	Texas	U.S.
Weather and Climate Risk				
 Drought Risk	3.40	20.36	14.32	11.61
 Flooding Risk	35.88	100.00	12.97	9.13
 Freeze Risk	3.40	12.05	13.09	15.72
 Severe Storm Risk	35.62	94.56	20.58	16.99
 Tropical Cyclone Risk	44.35	100.00	6.41	4.36
 Wildfire Risk	--	11.81	11.28	6.30
 Winter Storm Risk	16.97	65.33	15.99	13.71
 Weather and Climate Combined Risk	29.74	100.00	17.29	13.30

In just the four months since I filed my direct testimony on March 6, 2024, the Company’s service area has been hit by the derecho (May 16), a May 28th storm that caused significant damage, a 2,500-acre wildfire in Brazoria County (June 30), and Hurricane Beryl (July 8).

¹⁶ *Id.* at 10:1-14.

1 Third, CenterPoint Houston faces increasingly high expectations from
2 customers, regulators, and policymakers in terms of more reliable service, faster
3 restoration following outages, and strengthening the electric grid in Texas. These
4 expectations are driven in significant part by an increasing trend toward
5 electrification—increased generator interconnection requests, proliferation of
6 distributed energy resources like rooftop solar, adoption of electric vehicles and
7 commercial fleet conversions, and electrification of commercial and industrial
8 processes and facilities.

9 In short, the risks facing CenterPoint Houston have increased significantly.
10 Within days of intervenors filing their testimony, the Governor and Lieutenant
11 Governor made it clear that *they* believe circumstances have changed. In a joint
12 statement, they noted ERCOT’s forecast that Texas will need to increase its
13 capacity to generate, transmit, and distribute electric power from approximately
14 85,000 MW to 150,000 MW over the next six years.¹⁷ The Governor and
15 Lieutenant Governor called for “an immediate review of all policies concerning the
16 grid.”¹⁸ A copy of the joint statement is attached as Exhibit JMR-R-1 to my
17 testimony.

¹⁷ Governor Abbot, Lt. Governor Patrick Joint Statement on Texas Energy Fund (July 1, 2024) <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-lt-governor-patrick-joint-statement-on-texas-energy-fund> (accessed on July 7, 2024).

¹⁸ *Id*

1 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE CAPITAL STRUCTURE IS ONE OF THOSE**
2 **“POLICIES CONCERNING THE GRID” THAT SHOULD BE**
3 **REVIEWED?**

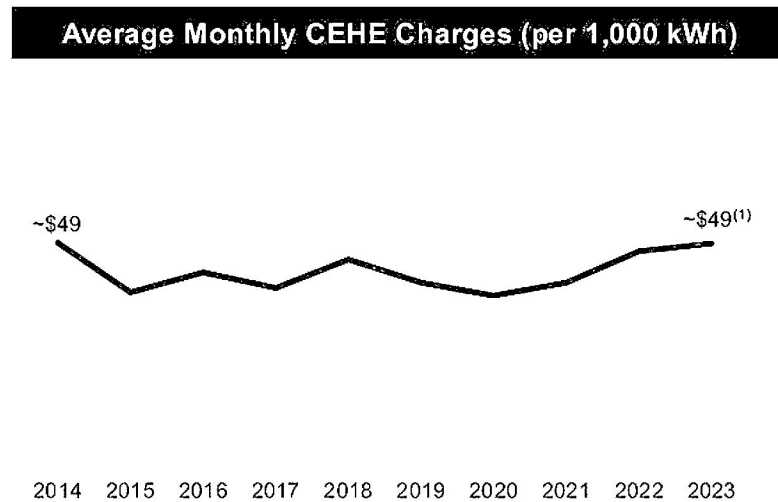
4 A. Yes. In fact, the significant growth forecast for customers and usage that prompted
5 the statement by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, is the same factor I cited
6 in my direct testimony for using a TDU’s actual capital structure.

7 **Q. DO YOU AGREE THAT SETTING THE COMPANY’S RATES USING A**
8 **HYPOTHETICAL CAPITAL STRUCTURE RATHER THAN THE**
9 **COMPANY’S ACTUAL CAPITAL STRUCTURE IS NECESSARY TO**
10 **PRESERVE CUSTOMER AFFORDABILITY?**

11 A. No, I disagree. As noted in my direct testimony, the portion of a customer’s bill
12 that is for CenterPoint Houston’s transmission and distribution charges is roughly
13 the same today as it was ten years ago.¹⁹

¹⁹ Ryan Direct at 36:9-37:5.

Figure JMR-R-2
CenterPoint Houston Average Monthly Charges per 1,000 KWh



Nearly flat charges on customer bills over the last 10 years at Houston Electric

~2.8% average annual inflation rate for that same period

(1) As of December 31, 2023

And for approximately six of those ten years—from 2014 to early 2020—the Company was charging rates set with a 55%/45% capital structure adopted by the Commission in Docket No. 38339. Clearly, the use of a 45% equity ratio (very close to the Company’s actual equity ratio in the Docket No. 38339 test year and the actual capital structure requested by the Company in this case) did not prevent CenterPoint Houston’s bills from remaining relatively flat.

1 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE CENTERPOINT HOUSTON CAN MAINTAIN**
2 **AFFORDABLE RATES IF ITS RATES ARE SET USING THE**
3 **COMPANY’S ACTUAL 44.9% EQUITY RATIO?**

4 A. Yes, I do. Mr. Gorman criticizes Ms. Richert for not addressing affordability in
5 connection with her testimony on capital structure and return on equity; but Mr.
6 Gorman completely ignores and does not respond to *my* direct testimony on
7 affordability. As I explained in my direct testimony, a number of transition charge
8 and storm recovery riders have recently expired or will soon expire, which should
9 reduce the average customer bill by about \$1.50 going forward. The Company will
10 need to recover the costs of the May 2024 derecho storm in future rates (see Exhibit
11 JMR-R-2), but I expect that to add less than \$1.00 per month to the average
12 customer bill. While Hurricane Beryl is also imposing additional costs, those have
13 not yet been estimated. Nevertheless, the Company continues to reduce its
14 operations and maintenance expenditures, providing another tool for preserving
15 affordable rates. No intervenor witness challenged my testimony that the
16 Company’s rates have increased more slowly than the rate of inflation.

17 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?**

18 A. Yes.

Flag Status: Full-Staff



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Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick Joint Statement On Texas Energy Fund

July 1, 2024 | Austin, Texas | [Press Release](#)

Governor Greg Abbott and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick today issued the following statement concerning the future of the Texas Energy Fund:

"In recent testimony before the Senate Business and Commerce committee, ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas testified that Texas may need 150,000 megawatts of power to power our grid by 2030. That is only six years away. Currently, Texas typically has approximately 85,000 megawatts of power available counting wind, solar, coal, nuclear, and natural gas. If the new estimate is correct, the updated numbers provided by Mr. Vegas call for an immediate review of all policies concerning the grid.

Last November, voters overwhelmingly approved Senate Joint Resolution 93, which created the Texas Energy Fund, providing for a \$5 billion low-interest loan program to incentivize the building of more dispatchable natural gas plants. Texas has already received notice of intent to apply for \$39 billion in loans, making the program nearly eight times oversubscribed. With the new projections for 2030, we will seek to expand the program to \$10 billion to build more new plants as soon as possible. The average plant will take three to four years to complete, and new transmission lines will take three to six years to complete. Texas is currently the fastest state to approve and build new plants and transmission lines because of our low regulations and pro-business policies, but we must move quickly."

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Office of the Texas Governor

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): June 24, 2024

**Registrant, State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation or Organization**

Commission file number	Address of Principal Executive Offices, Zip Code and Telephone Number	I.R.S. Employer Identification No.
1-31447	CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (a Texas corporation) 1111 Louisiana Houston Texas 77002 (713) 207-1111	74-0694415
1-3187	CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC (a Texas limited liability company) 1111 Louisiana Houston Texas 77002 (713) 207-1111	22-3865106

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Registrants	Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.	Common Stock, \$0.01 par value	CNP	The New York Stock Exchange NYSE Chicago
CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC	6.95% General Mortgage Bonds due 2033	n/a	The New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2).

Emerging Growth Company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On June 24, 2024, CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC (the “Company”), a wholly owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (“CenterPoint Energy”), entered into a delayed draw term loan agreement (the “Term Loan Agreement”) among Mizuho Bank, Ltd., as administrative agent, and the banks party thereto, pursuant to which the banks have committed to provide term loans in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$300 million. The Term Loan Agreement also permits the Company to request additional commitments and/or additional loans, such additional commitments and/or loans not to exceed \$200 million and subject to the satisfaction of certain customary conditions precedent. The Company intends to use the proceeds for working capital to support liquidity needs from the May 2024 Storm Events (as defined below) and general limited liability company purposes. The maturity date for the borrowings under the Term Loan Agreement is December 24, 2025.

Borrowings under the Term Loan Agreement bear interest, at the Company’s option, at a rate equal to either (i) Term SOFR (as defined in the Term Loan Agreement), which includes an adjustment of 0.10% per annum plus a margin of 1.0% or (ii) the Alternate Base Rate (as defined in the Term Loan Agreement). The Term Loan Agreement contains certain covenants, including a covenant that requires the Company not to exceed a ratio of consolidated debt (excluding, among other things, transition and system restoration bonds) to consolidated capitalization (excluding, among other things, non-cash reductions to net income) of 67.5%. The Term Loan Agreement provides a temporary increase of the permitted ratio under this covenant to 70% if the Company or its subsidiaries experiences certain damages from a natural disaster in its service territory and, among other conditions, the Company certifies to the administrative agent that the system restoration costs incurred by the Company and its subsidiaries in connection with that natural disaster are reasonably likely to exceed \$100 million in a consecutive twelve-month period, all or part of which the Company or one of its subsidiaries intend to seek to recover through securitization financing. Such temporary increase in the financial ratio covenant would be in effect from the date the Company delivers its certification until the earliest to occur of (i) the completion of the securitization financing, (ii) the first anniversary of the date of such certification or (iii) the revocation by the Company of such certification.

Borrowings under the Term Loan Agreement may be voluntarily prepaid without penalty or premium, other than customary breakage costs related to prepayments of loans that bear interest based on Term SOFR. The Term Loan Agreement also provides a mechanism to replace Term SOFR or other then-applicable interest rate benchmarks if they are no longer available.

Borrowings under the Term Loan Agreement are subject to acceleration upon the occurrence of events of default that the Company considers customary. The Term Loan Agreement also provides for the payment of customary fees, including administrative agent fees, ticking fees and other fees.

The Term Loan Agreement described above is filed as Exhibit 10.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated by reference herein. The foregoing summary does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Term Loan Agreement.

Mizuho Bank, Ltd., TD Bank, N.A. and U.S. Bank National Association have each committed to providing funding under the Term Loan Agreement and each of them and/or their respective affiliates have performed depository and other banking, investment banking, trust, investment management and advisory services for the Company and its affiliates from time to time for which they have received customary fees and expenses and may, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for the Company and its affiliates in the ordinary course of its business. Mizuho Bank, Ltd., TD Bank, N.A. and U.S. Bank National Association also serves as lenders and/or agents under other credit agreements of the Company and its affiliates.

Item 2.03 Creation of a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement of a Registrant.

The information included in Item 1.01 of this Current Report on Form 8-K is incorporated by reference into this Item 2.03.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

The Company's service territory experienced sudden and destructive severe weather events in May 2024 that included Category 2 Hurricane-like winds and tornadoes (collectively, the "May 2024 Storm Events"). The May 2024 Storm Events caused significant damage to the Company's electric delivery system. For example, damage from the May 16, 2024 storm resulted in electric service interruptions peaking at nearly 922,000 customers. In response to certain of these weather events, the Company implemented its emergency operations plan's processes and procedures developed to respond to such events, including establishing an incident command center, activating resources to support its restoration efforts and calling for assistance from other utilities where needed, among other measures. The Company has remained in contact with its regulators and stakeholders, including federal, state and local officials, as well as the Public Utility Commission of Texas (the "PUCT") and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas regarding the May 2024 Storm Events.

The Company estimates that total costs to restore the electric delivery facilities damaged as a result of the May 2024 Storm Events will be in the range of \$425 to \$475 million based on currently available information. These estimates are subject to revisions as certain restoration costs may continue through the end of 2024, with potential for ongoing repairs to our transmission facilities to continue into 2025.

The ultimate recovery of costs is expected to be sought through traditional regulatory mechanisms or through securitization bonds, as applicable. The Company expects to obtain recovery of a portion of the May 2024 Storm Events storm restoration costs that are functionalized to distribution through the issuance of non-recourse securitization bonds. Assuming those bonds are issued, the Company expects to recover the amount of storm restoration costs approved by the PUCT out of the net proceeds from the bond offering, with the debt service and other financing costs of the bonds being paid over the term of the bonds through a storm restoration charge imposed on the Company's customers.

CenterPoint Energy reaffirms its previously announced non-GAAP earnings guidance.

Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

As included in this Current Report, 2024 non-GAAP earnings per diluted share, is a non-GAAP measure that excludes earnings and losses from the change in value of CenterPoint Energy's 2.0% Zero-Premium Exchangeable Subordinated Notes due 2029 ("ZENS") and related securities, and the gain and impact, including related expenses, associated with mergers and divestitures, such as the divestiture of Energy Systems Group, LLC and CenterPoint Energy's Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. In providing 2024 non-GAAP EPS guidance, CenterPoint Energy does not consider the items noted above and other potential impacts such as changes in accounting standards, impairments, or other unusual items, which could have a material impact on GAAP reported results for the applicable guidance period. The 2024 non-GAAP guidance range also considers assumptions for certain significant variables that may impact earnings, such as customer growth and usage including normal weather, throughput, recovery of capital invested, effective tax rates, financing activities and related interest rates, and regulatory and judicial proceedings. To the extent actual results deviate from these assumptions, the 2024 non-GAAP EPS guidance range may not be met, or the projected annual non-GAAP EPS growth rate may change. CenterPoint Energy is unable to present a quantitative reconciliation of forward-looking non-GAAP diluted earnings per share without unreasonable effort because changes in the value of ZENS and related securities, future impairments, and other unusual items are not estimable and are difficult to predict due to various factors outside of management's control.

Management evaluates CenterPoint Energy's financial performance in part based on non-GAAP earnings per share. Management believes that presenting this non-GAAP financial measure enhances an investor's understanding of CenterPoint Energy's overall financial performance by providing them with an additional meaningful and relevant comparison of anticipated future results across periods. The adjustments made in this non-GAAP financial measure exclude items that management believes do not most accurately reflect CenterPoint Energy's fundamental business performance. CenterPoint Energy's non-GAAP diluted earnings per share measures should be considered as a supplement to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, diluted earnings per share, which is the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure. This non-GAAP financial measure also may be different than non-GAAP financial measures used by other companies.

Forward-Looking Statements

This Current Report may contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. All statements other than statements of historical fact included in this Current Report are forward-looking statements made in good faith by us and are intended to qualify for the safe harbor from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used in this Current Report, the words "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "goal," "intend," "may," "objective," "plan," "potential," "predict," "projection," "should," "target," "will" or other similar words are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based upon assumptions of management which are believed to be reasonable at the time made and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual events and results

may differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. The Company assumes no obligation and does not intend to update or revise these forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by securities and other applicable laws. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the Company's anticipated borrowings pursuant to the Term Loan Agreement, the Company's estimates regarding system restoration costs for the damage resulting from the May 2024 Storm Events, CenterPoint Energy's earnings guidance and the timing and approval of securitization legislation. Each forward-looking statement contained in this Current Report speaks only as of the date of this report. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the provided forward-looking information include, but are not limited to, risks and uncertainties relating to: (1) CenterPoint Energy's business strategies and strategic initiatives, restructurings, joint ventures and acquisitions or dispositions of assets or businesses, including the announced sale of CenterPoint Energy's Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas LDC businesses, and the completed sale of Energy Systems Group, LLC, which CenterPoint Energy cannot assure will have the anticipated benefits to it; (2) industrial, commercial and residential growth in CenterPoint Energy's service territories and changes in market demand; (3) CenterPoint Energy's ability to fund and invest planned capital, and the timely recovery of its investments; (4) financial market and general economic conditions, including access to debt and equity capital and inflation, interest rates and instability of banking institutions, and their effect on sales, prices and costs; (5) disruptions to the global supply chain and volatility in commodity prices; (6) actions by credit rating agencies, including any potential downgrades to credit ratings; (7) the timing and impact of regulatory proceedings and actions and legal proceedings, including those related to the Company's mobile generation; (8) legislative decisions, including tax and developments related to the environment such as global climate change, air emissions, carbon, waste water discharges and the handling of coal combustion residuals, among others, and CenterPoint Energy's net zero and carbon emissions reduction goals; (9) the impact of pandemics; (10) weather variations and CenterPoint Energy's ability to mitigate weather impacts, including the approval and timing of securitization issuances; (11) the impact of potential wildfires; (12) changes in business plans; (13) CenterPoint Energy's ability to execute on its initiatives, targets and goals, including its net zero and carbon emissions reduction goals and operations and maintenance goals; and (14) other factors discussed in CenterPoint Energy's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2024, including in the "Risk Factors" and "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Information" sections of such reports, and other reports CenterPoint Energy or its subsidiaries may file from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The information included in this Item 7.01 is furnished, not filed, pursuant to Item 7.01. Accordingly, none of the information will be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, as amended, and the information will not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement filed by CenterPoint Energy or the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, unless specifically identified as being incorporated by reference.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

The exhibit listed below is filed herewith. The Term Loan Agreement included as an exhibit is included only to provide information to investors regarding its terms. The Term Loan Agreement listed below may contain representations, warranties and other provisions that were made, among other things, to provide the parties thereto with specified rights and obligations and to allocate risk among them, and such agreement should not be relied upon as constituting or providing any factual disclosures about us, any other persons, any state of affairs or other matters.

(d) Exhibits.

<u>EXHIBIT NUMBER</u>	<u>EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION</u>
10.1	<u>Term Loan Agreement dated as of June 24, 2024 among CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC as borrower, Mizuho Bank, Ltd., as administrative agent, and the banks party thereto.</u>
104	Cover Page Integrative Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document).

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

Date: June 24, 2024

By: /s/ Kristie L. Colvin

Kristie L. Colvin

Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC

Date: June 24, 2024

By: /s/ Kristie L. Colvin

Kristie L. Colvin

Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

Exhibit 10.1

Execution Version

Deal:
CUSIP: 15189FAN7
ISIN: US15189FAN78
Facility:
CUSIP: 15189FAP2
ISIN: US15189FAP27

TERM LOAN AGREEMENT

dated as of June 24, 2024

among

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC,
as Borrower,

THE BANKS PARTIES HERETO

and

MIZUHO BANK, LTD.,
as Administrative Agent

MIZUHO BANK, LTD.,
TD BANK, N.A., and
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
as Joint Lead Arrangers

and

MIZUHO BANK, LTD.,
as Sole Bookrunner

Table of Contents

	Page
ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS AND ACCOUNTING TERMS	1
SECTION 1.1. Certain Defined Terms	1
SECTION 1.2. Classification of Loans and Borrowings	29
SECTION 1.3. Other Definitional Provisions	29
SECTION 1.4. Accounting Terms; GAAP	29
SECTION 1.5. Disclaimer and Exculpation	30
SECTION 1.6. Divisions	30
ARTICLE II AMOUNTS AND TERMS OF THE LOANS	31
SECTION 2.1. The Commitments	31
SECTION 2.2. Procedure for Loan Borrowing	31
SECTION 2.3. Increase in the Total Commitments and Loan Increases	33
SECTION 2.4. Defaulting Banks	34
SECTION 2.5. Acknowledgement and Consent to Bail-In of Affected Financial Institutions	35
ARTICLE III PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALL LOANS	36
SECTION 3.1. Evidence of Loans	36
SECTION 3.2. Fees	36
SECTION 3.3. Interest	37
SECTION 3.4. [Reserved]	38
SECTION 3.5. Interest Rate Determination; Inability to Determine Rates	38
SECTION 3.6. Voluntary Interest Conversion or Continuation of Loans	38
SECTION 3.7. Funding Losses Relating to SOFR Loans	39
SECTION 3.8. Change in Legality	40
SECTION 3.9. Benchmark Replacement Setting	40
ARTICLE IV INCREASED COSTS, TAXES, PAYMENTS AND PREPAYMENTS	42
SECTION 4.1. Increased Costs; Capital Adequacy	42
SECTION 4.2. Pro Rata Treatment and Payments and Computations	43
SECTION 4.3. Taxes	44
SECTION 4.4. Sharing of Payments, Etc.	50
SECTION 4.5. Optional Termination or Reduction of Commitments	50
SECTION 4.6. Voluntary Prepayments	50
SECTION 4.7. Mitigation of Losses and Costs; Replacement of Banks	51
SECTION 4.8. Determination and Notice of Additional Costs and Other Amounts	52
ARTICLE V CONDITIONS OF LENDING	52
SECTION 5.1. Closing Date	52
SECTION 5.2. Conditions Precedent to Each Credit Event	54
SECTION 5.3. Conditions Precedent to Each Increase of the Commitments	54
ARTICLE VI REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES	55
SECTION 6.1. Representations and Warranties of the Borrower	55

ARTICLE VII AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE COVENANTS	58
SECTION 7.1. Affirmative Covenants	58
SECTION 7.2. Negative Covenants	62
ARTICLE VIII EVENTS OF DEFAULT	67
SECTION 8.1. Events of Default	67
SECTION 8.2. Cancellation/Acceleration	69
ARTICLE IX THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT	70
SECTION 9.1. Appointment	70
SECTION 9.2. Delegation of Duties	70
SECTION 9.3. Exculpatory Provisions	70
SECTION 9.4. Reliance by Administrative Agent	71
SECTION 9.5. Notice of Default	71
SECTION 9.6. Non-Reliance on Administrative Agent, Lead Arranger and Other Banks	71
SECTION 9.7. Indemnification	72
SECTION 9.8. Administrative Agent in Its Individual Capacity	72
SECTION 9.9. Successor Administrative Agent	72
SECTION 9.10. Lead Arranger	73
SECTION 9.11. Certain ERISA Matters	73
SECTION 9.12. Recovery of Erroneous Payments	74
ARTICLE X MISCELLANEOUS	76
SECTION 10.1. Amendments and Waivers	76
SECTION 10.2. Notices	77
SECTION 10.3. No Waiver; Cumulative Remedies	78
SECTION 10.4. Survival of Representations and Warranties	79
SECTION 10.5. Payment of Expenses; Indemnity; Limitation of Liability, Etc.	79
SECTION 10.6. Effectiveness, Successors and Assigns; Participations; Assignments	80
SECTION 10.7. Setoff	83
SECTION 10.8. Counterparts	83
SECTION 10.9. Severability	84
SECTION 10.10. Integration	84
SECTION 10.11. GOVERNING LAW	85
SECTION 10.12. WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL	85
SECTION 10.13. Submission to Jurisdiction; Waivers	85
SECTION 10.14. Acknowledgments	86
SECTION 10.15. Limitation on Agreements	86
SECTION 10.16. Removal of Bank	87
SECTION 10.17. Confidentiality	87
SECTION 10.18. Officer's Certificates	88
SECTION 10.19. USA Patriot Act	88
SECTION 10.20. No Advisory or Fiduciary Responsibility	89

Schedules

Schedule 1.1	—	Schedule of Commitments and Addresses
Schedule 6.1(p)	—	Ownership of Capital Stock of Subsidiaries; Significant Subsidiaries

Exhibits

Exhibit A	—	Form of Notice of Borrowing
Exhibit B	—	Form of Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation
Exhibit C	—	Form of Assignment and Acceptance
Exhibit D	—	Form of Note
Exhibit E	—	Form of Commitment Increase Notice/Loan Increase Notice
Exhibit F-1	—	Form of U.S. Tax Compliance Certificate
Exhibit F-2	—	Form of U.S. Tax Compliance Certificate
Exhibit F-3	—	Form of U.S. Tax Compliance Certificate
Exhibit F-4	—	Form of U.S. Tax Compliance Certificate

This TERM LOAN AGREEMENT, dated as of June 24, 2024 (this "Agreement"), among CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC, a Texas limited liability company (the "Borrower"), the banks and other financial institutions from time to time parties hereto (individually, a "Bank" and, collectively, the "Banks"), and MIZUHO BANK, LTD., as administrative agent (in such capacity, together with any successors thereto in such capacity, the "Administrative Agent").

The parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS AND ACCOUNTING TERMS

SECTION 1.1. Certain Defined Terms.

As used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"ABR Loan" means any Loan that bears interest at a rate determined by reference to the Alternate Base Rate.

"ABR Term SOFR Determination Day" has the meaning specified in the definition of "Term SOFR".

"Administrative Agent" has the meaning specified in the introduction to this Agreement.

"Affected Financial Institution" means (a) any EEA Financial Institution or (b) any UK Financial Institution.

"Affiliate" means any Person that, directly or indirectly, Controls or is Controlled by or is under common Control with another Person.

"Agent Indemnitee" has the meaning specified in Section 9.7.

"Agreement" has the meaning specified in the introduction to this Agreement.

"Alternate Base Rate" means, at any time, the highest of (a) the Prime Rate, (b) the Federal Funds Effective Rate plus 0.50% and (c) Term SOFR for a one-month tenor in effect on such day plus 1.00%; each change in the Alternate Base Rate shall take effect simultaneously with the corresponding change or changes in the Prime Rate, the Federal Funds Effective Rate or Term SOFR. If the Alternate Base Rate as determined pursuant to the foregoing would be less than 1.00%, such rate shall be deemed to be 1.00%.

"Anti-Corruption Laws" means all laws, rules, and regulations of any jurisdiction applicable to the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries from time to time concerning or relating to bribery or corruption, including, without limitation, the United States Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977.

“Applicable Rate” means, for any day, with respect to any SOFR Loan, 1.0%, or for any ABR Loan, 0.00%.

“Applicable Storm” means any hurricane, tropical storm, ice or snow storm, flood or other weather-related event or natural disaster subject to the Texas Recovery Law.

“Assignment and Acceptance” has the meaning specified in Section 10.6(c).

“Available Tenor” means, as of any date of determination and with respect to the then-current Benchmark, as applicable, (x) if such Benchmark is a term rate, any tenor for such Benchmark (or component thereof) that is or may be used for determining the length of an Interest Period pursuant to this Agreement or (y) otherwise, any payment period for interest calculated with reference to such Benchmark (or component thereof) that is or may be used for determining any frequency of making payments of interest calculated with reference to such Benchmark pursuant to this Agreement, in each case, as of such date and not including, for the avoidance of doubt, any tenor for such Benchmark that is then-removed from the definition of “Interest Period” pursuant to Section 3.9(d).

“Bail-In Action” means the exercise of any Write-Down and Conversion Powers by the applicable Resolution Authority in respect of any liability of an Affected Financial Institution.

“Bail-In Legislation” means, (a) with respect to any EEA Member Country implementing Article 55 of Directive 2014/59/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union, the implementing law, regulation rule or requirement for such EEA Member Country from time to time which is described in the EU Bail-In Legislation Schedule and (b) with respect to the United Kingdom, Part I of the United Kingdom Banking Act 2009 (as amended from time to time) and any other law, regulation or rule applicable in the United Kingdom relating to the resolution of unsound or failing banks, investment firms or other financial institutions or their affiliates (other than through liquidation, administration or other insolvency proceedings).

“Bank” and “Banks” have the meanings specified in the introduction to this Agreement.

“Bank Affiliate” means, (a) with respect to any Bank, (i) an Affiliate of such Bank that is a bank or (ii) any entity (whether a corporation, partnership, trust or otherwise) that is engaged in making, purchasing, holding or otherwise investing in bank loans and similar extensions of credit in the ordinary course of its business and is administered or managed by a Bank or an Affiliate of such Bank and (b) with respect to any Bank that is a fund which invests in bank loans and similar extensions of credit, any other fund that invests in bank loans and similar extensions of credit and is managed by such Bank, an Affiliate of such Bank or the same investment advisor as such Bank or by an Affiliate of such investment advisor.

“Bankruptcy Event” means, with respect to any Person, such Person becomes the subject of a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding, or has had a receiver, conservator, trustee, administrator, custodian, assignee for the benefit of creditors or similar Person charged with the reorganization or liquidation of its business appointed for it, or, in the good faith determination of the Administrative Agent, has taken any action in furtherance of, or indicating its consent to, approval of, or acquiescence in, any such proceeding or appointment; provided that a Bankruptcy Event shall not result solely by virtue of any ownership interest, or the acquisition of any ownership interest, in such Person by a Governmental Authority or instrumentality thereof, so long as such ownership interest does not result in or provide such Person with immunity from the jurisdiction of courts within the United States or from the enforcement of judgments or writs of attachment on its assets or permit such Person (or such Governmental Authority or instrumentality) to reject, repudiate, disavow or disaffirm any contracts or agreements made by such Person.

“Benchmark” means, initially, the Term SOFR Reference Rate; provided that if a Benchmark Transition Event has occurred with respect to the Term SOFR Reference Rate or the then-current Benchmark, then “Benchmark” means the applicable Benchmark Replacement to the extent that such Benchmark Replacement has replaced such prior benchmark rate pursuant to Section 3.9(a).

“Benchmark Replacement” means, with respect to any Benchmark Transition Event, the first alternative set forth in the order below that can be determined by the Administrative Agent for the applicable Benchmark Replacement Date: (a) the sum of (i) Daily Simple SOFR and (ii) 0.10% (10 basis points); or (b) the sum of (i) the alternate benchmark rate that has been selected by the Administrative Agent and the Borrower giving due consideration to (A) any selection or recommendation of a replacement benchmark rate or the mechanism for determining such a rate by the Relevant Governmental Body or (B) any evolving or then-prevailing market convention for determining a benchmark rate as a replacement to the then-current Benchmark for Dollar-denominated syndicated credit facilities at such time and (ii) the related Benchmark Replacement Adjustment; provided that, if such Benchmark Replacement as so determined would be less than the Floor, such Benchmark Replacement will be deemed to be the Floor for the purposes of this Agreement and the other Loan Documents.

“Benchmark Replacement Adjustment” means, with respect to any replacement of the then-current Benchmark with an Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement, the spread adjustment, or method for calculating or determining such spread adjustment, (which may be a positive or negative value or zero) that has been selected by the Administrative Agent and the Borrower giving due consideration to (a) any selection or recommendation of a spread adjustment, or method for calculating or determining such spread adjustment, for the replacement of such Benchmark with the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement by the Relevant Governmental Body or (b) any evolving or then-prevailing market convention for determining a spread adjustment, or method for calculating or determining such spread adjustment, for the replacement of such Benchmark with the applicable Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement for Dollar-denominated syndicated credit facilities at such time.

“Benchmark Replacement Date” means the earliest to occur of the following events with respect to the then-current Benchmark:

- (a) in the case of clause (a) or (b) of the definition of “Benchmark Transition Event,” the later of (i) the date of the public statement or publication of information referenced therein and (ii) the date on which the administrator of such Benchmark (or the published component used in the calculation thereof) permanently or indefinitely ceases to provide all Available Tenors of such Benchmark (or such component thereof); or
- (b) in the case of clause (c) of the definition of “Benchmark Transition Event,” the first date on which such Benchmark (or the published component used in the calculation thereof) has been determined and announced by the regulatory supervisor for the administrator of such Benchmark (or such component thereof) to be non-representative; provided that such non-representativeness will be determined by reference to the most recent statement or publication referenced in such clause (c) and even if any Available Tenor of such Benchmark (or such component thereof) continues to be provided on such date.

For the avoidance of doubt, the “Benchmark Replacement Date” will be deemed to have occurred in the case of clause (a) or (b) with respect to any Benchmark upon the occurrence of the applicable event or events set forth therein with respect to all then-current Available Tenors of such Benchmark (or the published component used in the calculation thereof).

“Benchmark Transition Event” means the occurrence of one or more of the following events with respect to the then-current Benchmark:

- (a) a public statement or publication of information by or on behalf of the administrator of such Benchmark (or the published component used in the calculation thereof) announcing that such administrator has ceased or will cease to provide all Available Tenors of such Benchmark (or such component thereof), permanently or indefinitely; provided that, at the time of such statement or publication, there is no successor administrator that will continue to provide any Available Tenor of such Benchmark (or such component thereof);
- (b) a public statement or publication of information by the regulatory supervisor for the administrator of such Benchmark (or the published component used in the calculation thereof), the Federal Reserve Board, the NYFRB, an insolvency official with jurisdiction over the administrator for such Benchmark (or such component), a resolution authority with jurisdiction over the administrator for such Benchmark (or such component) or a court or an entity with similar insolvency or resolution authority over the administrator for such Benchmark (or such component), which states that the administrator of such Benchmark (or such component) has ceased or will cease to provide all Available Tenors of such Benchmark (or such component thereof) permanently or indefinitely; provided that, at the time of such statement or publication, there is no successor administrator that will continue to provide any Available Tenor of such Benchmark (or such component thereof); or

- (c) a public statement or publication of information by the regulatory supervisor for the administrator of such Benchmark (or the published component used in the calculation thereof) announcing that all Available Tenors of such Benchmark (or such component thereof) are not, or as of a specified future date will not be, representative.

For the avoidance of doubt, a “Benchmark Transition Event” will be deemed to have occurred with respect to any Benchmark if a public statement or publication of information set forth above has occurred with respect to each then-current Available Tenor of such Benchmark (or the published component used in the calculation thereof).

“Benchmark Unavailability Period” means the period (if any) (a) beginning at the time that a Benchmark Replacement Date has occurred if, at such time, no Benchmark Replacement has replaced the then-current Benchmark for all purposes hereunder and under any Loan Document in accordance with Section 3.9 and (b) ending at the time that a Benchmark Replacement has replaced the then-current Benchmark for all purposes hereunder and under any Loan Document in accordance with Section 3.9.

“Beneficial Ownership Certification” means a certification regarding beneficial ownership or control as required by the Beneficial Ownership Regulation.

“Beneficial Ownership Regulation” means 31 C.F.R. § 1010.230.

“Benefit Plan” means any of (a) an “employee benefit plan” (as defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA) that is subject to Title I of ERISA, (b) a “plan” as defined in Section 4975 of the Code to which Section 4975 of the Code applies, and (c) any Person whose assets include (for purposes of the Plan Asset Regulations or otherwise for purposes of Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code) the assets of any such “employee benefit plan” or “plan”.

“Board” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System of the United States (or any successor thereto).

“Borrowed Money” of any Person means any Indebtedness of such Person for or in respect of money borrowed or raised by whatever means (including acceptances, deposits, lease obligations under Capital Leases, Mandatory Payment Preferred Stock and synthetic leases); provided, however, that Borrowed Money shall not include (a) any guarantees that may be incurred by endorsement of negotiable instruments for deposit or collection in the ordinary course of business or similar transactions, (b) any obligations or guarantees of performance of obligations under a franchise, performance bonds, franchise bonds, obligations to reimburse drawings under letters of credit issued in accordance with the terms of any safe harbor lease or franchise or in lieu of performance or franchise bonds or other obligations that do not represent money borrowed or raised, in each case to the extent that such reimbursement obligations are payable in full within ten (10) Business Days after the date upon which such obligation arises, (c) trade payables, (d) any obligations of such Person under Swap Agreements, (e) customer advance payments and deposits arising in the ordinary course of business and (f) operating leases.

"Borrower" has the meaning specified in the introduction to this Agreement.

"Borrowing" means a borrowing consisting of Loans of the same Type, and having, in the case of a SOFR Borrowing, the same Interest Period, made on the same day by the Banks.

"Borrowing Date" means any Business Day specified by the Borrower as a date on which the Borrower requests the Banks to make Loans hereunder.

"Business Day" means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or other day on which commercial banks in New York City or Houston, Texas are authorized or required by law to close; provided that, in relation to Loans referencing Term SOFR and any interest rate settings, fundings, disbursements, settlements or payments of any such Loans referencing Term SOFR, "Business Day" shall mean any such day that is only a U.S. Government Securities Business Day.

"Capital Lease" means a lease that, in accordance with GAAP, would be recorded as a capital lease on the balance sheet of the lessee.

"Capital Stock" means any and all shares, interests, participations or other equivalents (however designated) of capital stock of a corporation, and any and all equivalent ownership interests in a Person other than a corporation, including partnership interests in partnerships and member interests in limited liability companies, and any and all warrants or options to purchase any of the foregoing (other than any debt security which by its terms is convertible at the option of the holder into Capital Stock, to the extent such holder has not so converted such debt security).

"CEHE General Mortgage Indenture" means the General Mortgage Indenture, dated as of October 10, 2002, between the Borrower and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. (as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.), as trustee, as amended, amended and restated, modified or supplemented from time to time.

"CEHE Original Mortgage" means the Mortgage and Deed of Trust, dated as of November 1, 1944, by the Borrower to The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. (as successor to South Texas Commercial National Bank of Houston), as trustee, as amended, amended and restated, modified or supplemented from time to time.

"CenterPoint" means CenterPoint Energy, Inc., a Texas corporation, and the indirect parent of the Borrower.

"Change in Control" means (i) with respect to CenterPoint, the acquisition by any Person or "group" (within the meaning of Rule 13d-5 of the Exchange Act) of beneficial ownership (determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 of the Exchange Act) of Capital Stock of CenterPoint, the result of which is that such Person or group beneficially owns 50% or more of the aggregate voting power of all then issued and outstanding Capital

Stock of CenterPoint (other than such Capital Stock having voting power only by reason of the happening of a contingency which contingency has not yet occurred) or (ii) CenterPoint shall cease to own and control beneficially, directly or indirectly, 100% of the outstanding common Capital Stock of the Borrower free and clear of all Liens (other than Permitted Liens). For purposes of the foregoing, the phrase "voting power" means, with respect to an issuer, the power under ordinary circumstances to vote for the election of members of the board of directors or other governing body of such issuer.

"Closing Date" means the date on which the conditions set forth in Section 5.1 are first satisfied (or waived) in accordance with the terms hereof.

"Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time, and any successor statute.

"Commitment" means, as to any Bank, the obligation of such Bank, if any, to make the Loans in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed the amount set forth under the heading "Commitment" opposite such Bank's name on Schedule 1.1 and/or in the Assignment and Acceptance pursuant to which such Bank became a party hereto, in each case, as the same may be changed from time to time pursuant to the terms hereof, including Section 2.3 and Section 4.5, or pursuant to an assignment by such Bank in accordance with Section 10.6.

"Commitment Increase" has the meaning specified in Section 2.3(a).

"Commitment Increase Agreement" means a Commitment Increase Agreement in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Administrative Agent and the Borrower, which is entered into by and among the Borrower, the Administrative Agent and one or more New Banks and/or Increasing Banks in order to provide for a Commitment Increase.

"Commitment Termination Date" means the earliest to occur of (a) the Outside Date and (b) the Termination Date.

"Commonly Controlled Entity" means an entity, whether or not incorporated, that is under common control with the Borrower within the meaning of Section 4001 of ERISA or is part of a group that includes the Borrower and that is treated as a single employer under Section 414 of the Code.

"Communications" has the meaning specified in Section 10.2(b).

"Conforming Changes" means, with respect to either the use or administration of Term SOFR or the use, administration, adoption or implementation of any Benchmark Replacement, any technical, administrative or operational changes (including changes to the definition of "Alternate Base Rate," the definition of "Business Day," the definition of "U.S. Government Securities Business Day," the definition of "Interest Period" or any similar or analogous definition (or the addition of a concept of "interest period"), timing and frequency of determining rates and making payments of interest, timing of borrowing requests or prepayment, conversion or continuation notices, the applicability and length

of lookback periods, the applicability of Section 3.3(e) and other technical, administrative or operational matters) that the Administrative Agent decides may be reasonably appropriate to reflect the adoption and implementation of any such rate or to permit the use and administration thereof by the Administrative Agent in a manner substantially consistent with market practice (or, if the Administrative Agent decides that adoption of any portion of such market practice is not administratively feasible or if the Administrative Agent determines that no market practice for the administration of any such rate exists, in such other manner of administration as the Administrative Agent decides is reasonably necessary in connection with the administration of this Agreement and the other Loan Documents).

“Connection Income Taxes” means Other Connection Taxes that are imposed on or measured by net income (however denominated) or that are franchise Taxes or branch profits Taxes.

“Consolidated Capitalization” means, as of any date of determination, the sum of (a) Consolidated Shareholders’ Equity, (b) Consolidated Indebtedness for Borrowed Money and, without duplication, (c) Mandatory Payment Preferred Stock; provided that, for the purpose of calculating compliance with Section 7.2(a), (i) Consolidated Capitalization shall be determined excluding any non-cash reduction, non-cash charge to net income or other non-cash charges or write-offs in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 350 “Intangibles – Goodwill and Other,” ASC 360 “Property, Plant, and Equipment,” ASC 323 “Investments – Equity Method and Joint Ventures” and other similar provisions of GAAP, and (ii) Consolidated Capitalization shall be (A) reduced by the net impact on Consolidated Shareholders’ Equity resulting from the recording of the outcome of any True-Up Litigation, and (B) increased by the amount of any distribution or other return of capital made by the Borrower on or with respect to any of its Capital Stock to the extent the source of the funds used to make such payments is attributable to Securitization Securities sold to permit the Borrower to recover amounts determined in any True-Up Litigation.

“Consolidated Indebtedness” means, as of any date of determination, the sum of:

(i) the total Indebtedness for Borrowed Money of the Borrower and its Consolidated Subsidiaries as shown on the consolidated balance sheet of the Borrower and its Consolidated Subsidiaries, determined without duplication of any Guarantee of Indebtedness of the Borrower by any of its Consolidated Subsidiaries or of any Guarantee of Indebtedness of any such Consolidated Subsidiary by the Borrower or any other Consolidated Subsidiary of the Borrower, plus

(ii) any Mandatory Payment Preferred Stock, less

(iii) the amount of Indebtedness described in clause (i) attributable to amounts then outstanding under receivables facilities or arrangements to the extent that such amounts would not have been shown as Indebtedness on a balance sheet prepared in accordance with GAAP prior to January 1, 1997, less

(iv) Non-Recourse Debt.

“Consolidated Shareholders’ Equity” means, as of any date of determination, the total assets of the Borrower and its Consolidated Subsidiaries, less all liabilities of the Borrower and its Consolidated Subsidiaries. As used in this definition, “liabilities” means all obligations that, in accordance with GAAP consistently applied, would be classified on a balance sheet as liabilities (including without limitation (to the extent so classified), (a) Indebtedness; (b) deferred liabilities; and (c) Indebtedness of the Borrower or any of its Consolidated Subsidiaries that is expressly subordinated in right and priority of payment to other liabilities of the Borrower or such Consolidated Subsidiary, but in any case excluding as at such date of determination any Junior Subordinated Debt owned by any issuer of Hybrid Equity Securities).

“Consolidated Subsidiary” means, with respect to a specified Person at any date, any Subsidiary or any other Person (other than, with respect to the Borrower, any Securitization Subsidiary or any Unrestricted Subsidiary), the accounts of which under GAAP would be consolidated with those of such specified Person in its consolidated financial statements as of such date.

“Contractual Obligation” means, as to any Person, any provision of any security issued by such Person or of any written agreement, instrument or other written undertaking to which such Person is a party or by which it or any of its property is bound.

“Controlled” means, with respect to any Person, the ability of another Person (whether directly or indirectly and whether by the ownership of voting securities, contract or otherwise) to appoint and/or remove the majority of the members of the board of directors or other governing body of that Person (and “Control” shall be similarly construed).

“Credit Party” means the Administrative Agent or any Bank.

“Daily Simple SOFR” means, for any day (a “SOFR Rate Day”), a rate per annum equal to the greater of (a) SOFR for the day (such day, a “SOFR Determination Day”) that is five U.S. Government Securities Business Days prior to (i) if such SOFR Rate Day is a U.S. Government Securities Business Day, such SOFR Rate Day or (ii) if such SOFR Rate Day is not a U.S. Government Securities Business Day, the U.S. Government Securities Business Day immediately preceding such SOFR Rate Day, in each case, as such SOFR is published by the SOFR Administrator on the SOFR Administrator’s Website, and (b) the Floor. If by 5:00 p.m. (New York City time) on the second (2nd) U.S. Government Securities Business Day immediately following any SOFR Determination Day, SOFR in respect of such SOFR Determination Day has not been published on the SOFR Administrator’s Website and a Benchmark Replacement Date with respect to the Daily Simple SOFR has not occurred, then SOFR for such SOFR Determination Day will be SOFR as published in respect of the first preceding U.S. Government Securities Business Day for which such SOFR was published on the SOFR Administrator’s Website; provided that any SOFR determined pursuant to this sentence shall be utilized for purposes of calculation of Daily Simple SOFR for no more than three (3) consecutive SOFR Rate Days. Any change in Daily Simple SOFR due to a change in SOFR shall be effective from and including the effective date of such change in SOFR without notice to the Borrower.

“Default” means any event or condition that, with the lapse of time or the giving of notice or both, would constitute an Event of Default.

“Default Rate” means, with respect to any overdue amount owed hereunder, a rate per annum equal to (a) in the case of overdue principal with respect to any Loan, the sum of the interest rate in effect at such time with respect to such Loan under Section 3.3, plus 2%; provided that in the case of overdue principal with respect to any SOFR Loan, after the end of the Interest Period with respect to such Loan, the Default Rate shall equal the rate set forth in clause (b) below, and (b) in the case of overdue interest with respect to any Loan or other amounts payable hereunder, the sum of the interest rate per annum in effect at such time with respect to ABR Loans, plus 2%.

“Defaulting Bank” means any Bank that (a) has failed, within two Business Days of the date required to be funded or paid, to (i) fund any portion of its Loans or (ii) pay over to any Credit Party any other amount required to be paid by it hereunder, unless, in the case of clause (i) above, such Bank notifies the Administrative Agent in writing that such failure is the result of such Bank’s good faith determination that a condition precedent to funding (specifically identified and including the particular default, if any) has not been satisfied, (b) has notified the Borrower or any Credit Party in writing, or has made a public statement to the effect, that it does not intend or expect to comply with any of its funding obligations under this Agreement (unless such writing or public statement indicates that such position is based on such Bank’s good faith determination that a condition precedent (specifically identified and including the particular default, if any) to funding a Loan under this Agreement cannot be satisfied) or generally under other agreements in which it commits to extend credit, (c) has failed, within three Business Days after request by the Administrative Agent or the Borrower, acting in good faith, to provide a certification in writing from an authorized officer of such Bank that it will comply with its obligations to fund prospective Loans under this Agreement, provided that such Bank shall cease to be a Defaulting Bank pursuant to this clause (c) upon the Administrative Agent’s or the Borrower’s receipt of such certification in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to it and the Administrative Agent, (d) has become the subject of a Bankruptcy Event, or (e) has, or has a direct or indirect parent company that has, become the subject of a Bail-In Action. Any determination by the Administrative Agent or the Borrower that a Bank is a Defaulting Bank under any one or more of clauses (a) or (b) above shall be conclusive and binding absent manifest error, and such Bank shall be deemed to be a Defaulting Bank upon delivery of written notice by the Administrative Agent or the Borrower of such determination to the Borrower or the Administrative Agent, as applicable, and each Bank.

“Designated Rating” means (a) in the case of S&P, the Borrower’s senior unsecured long-term debt rating or its equivalent (or if such rating is discontinued or unavailable, the Borrower’s corporate credit rating) issued by S&P and (b) in the case of Moody’s, the Borrower’s senior unsecured long-term debt rating or its equivalent (or if such rating is discontinued or unavailable, the Borrower’s long-term issuer rating) issued by Moody’s.

“Dollars” and the symbol “\$” mean the lawful currency of the United States.

“Early Funding ABR Loan” has the meaning specified in Section 2.2(a).

“EEA Financial Institution” means (a) any credit institution or investment firm established in any EEA Member Country which is subject to the supervision of an EEA Resolution Authority, (b) any entity established in an EEA Member Country which is a parent of an institution described in clause (a) of this definition, or (c) any financial institution established in an EEA Member Country which is a subsidiary of an institution described in clauses (a) or (b) of this definition and is subject to consolidated supervision with its parent.

“EEA Member Country” means any of the member states of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.

“EEA Resolution Authority” means any public administrative authority or any person entrusted with public administrative authority of any EEA Member Country (including any delegee) having responsibility for the resolution of any EEA Financial Institution.

“Effective Applicable Storm” means any Applicable Storm as to which a Storm Certificate has been received by the Administrative Agent and as to which an Other Covenant Trigger Date has not occurred.

“Electronic Signature” means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to, or associated with, a contract or other record and adopted by a Person with the intent to sign, authenticate or accept such contract or record.

“Eligible Assignee” means (i) a Bank; (ii) an Affiliate of a Bank; and (iii) any other financial institution that is a “qualified purchaser” as defined under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and is approved by the Administrative Agent and, unless an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing at the time any assignment is effected in accordance with Section 10.6, the Borrower, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.

“ERISA” means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended from time to time.

“Erroneous Payment” has the meaning assigned to it in Section 9.12(a).

“EU Bail-In Legislation Schedule” means the EU Bail-In Legislation Schedule published by the Loan Market Association (or any successor person), as in effect from time to time.

“Event of Default” has the meaning specified in Section 8.1.

“Exchange Act” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“Excluded Taxes” has the meaning specified in Section 4.3(a).

“FATCA” means Sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code, as of the date of this Agreement (or any amended or successor version that is substantively comparable and not materially more onerous to comply with), any current or future regulations or official interpretations thereof, any agreements entered into pursuant to Section 1471(b)(1) of the Code, any intergovernmental agreement between the United States and another country implementing or modifying the provisions of the foregoing and any law, regulation, rule, promulgation, or official agreement implementing such an official government agreement.

“Federal Funds Effective Rate” means, for any day, the rate per annum equal to the weighted average of the rates on overnight federal funds transactions with members of the Federal Reserve System, as published by the NYFRB on the Business Day next succeeding such day, provided that if such rate is not so published for any day which is a Business Day, the Federal Funds Effective Rate for such day shall be the average of the quotation for such day on such transactions received by the Administrative Agent from three federal funds brokers of recognized standing selected by the Administrative Agent. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Federal Funds Rate shall be less than zero, such rate shall be deemed to be zero.

“Fee Letter” means that certain Fee Letter, dated as of the date hereof, between the Borrower and Mizuho Bank, Ltd., as Administrative Agent and Lead Arranger.

“Floor” means a rate of interest equal to zero percent.

“Funding Office” means the office of the Administrative Agent specified in Section 10.2(a) or such other office as may be specified from time to time by the Administrative Agent as its funding office by written notice to the Borrower and the Banks.

“GAAP” means, subject to Section 1.4, generally accepted accounting principles in effect from time to time in the United States of America.

“Governmental Authority” means any nation or government, any state or other political subdivision thereof, and any agency, authority, instrumentality, regulatory body, court, central bank or other entity exercising executive, legislative, judicial, taxing, regulatory or administrative functions of or pertaining to government (including any supra-national bodies such as the European Union or the European Central Bank).

“Guarantee” means, as to any Person (the “guaranteeing person”), any obligation of (a) the guaranteeing Person or (b) another Person (including any bank under any letter of credit) with respect to which the guaranteeing person has issued a reimbursement, counterindemnity or similar obligation, in either case guaranteeing or in effect guaranteeing any principal of any Indebtedness for Borrowed Money (the “primary obligation”) of any other third Person in any manner, whether directly or indirectly,

including any obligation of the guaranteeing Person, whether or not contingent, (i) to purchase any such primary obligation or any property constituting direct or indirect security therefor, (ii) to advance or supply funds for the purchase or payment of any such primary obligation or (iii) otherwise to assure or hold harmless the owner of any such primary obligation against loss in respect thereof. The amount of any Guarantee of any guaranteeing person shall be deemed to be the lower of (a) an amount equal to the stated or determinable amount of the primary obligation in respect of which such Guarantee is made and (b) the maximum amount for which such guaranteeing person may be liable pursuant to the terms of the instrument embodying such Guarantee, unless such primary obligation and the maximum amount for which such guaranteeing person may be liable are not stated or determinable, in which case the amount of such Guarantee shall be such guaranteeing person's maximum reasonably anticipated liability in respect thereof as determined by the Borrower in good faith (and "guaranteed" and "guarantor" shall be construed accordingly).

"Highest Lawful Rate" means, with respect to each Bank, the maximum nonusurious interest rate, if any, that at any time or from time to time may be contracted for, taken, reserved, charged or received with respect to any Loan or on other amounts, if any, due to such Bank pursuant to this Agreement or any other Loan Document under applicable law. "Applicable law" as used in this definition means, with respect to each Bank, that law in effect from time to time that permits the charging and collection by such Bank of the highest permissible lawful, nonusurious rate of interest on the transactions herein contemplated including the laws of each State that may be held to be applicable, and of the United States, if applicable.

"Hybrid Equity Securities" means, on any date (the "determination date"), any securities issued by the Borrower or a Restricted Subsidiary, other than common stock, that meet the following criteria: (a) the Borrower demonstrates that such securities are classified, at the time they are issued, as possessing a minimum of "intermediate equity content" by S&P and "Basket C equity credit" by Moody's (or the equivalent classifications then in effect by such agencies) and (b) such securities require no repayments or prepayments and no mandatory redemptions or repurchases, in each case, prior to at least 91 days after the later of the termination or expiration of the Commitments and the repayment in full of the obligations hereunder. As used in this definition, "mandatory redemption" shall not include conversion of a security into common stock.

"Increase Date" has the meaning specified in Section 2.3(a).

"Increasing Bank" has the meaning specified in Section 2.3(a).

"Indebtedness" of any Person means the sum, without duplication, of (a) all items (other than Capital Stock, capital surplus, retained earnings, other comprehensive income, treasury stock and any other items that would properly be included in shareholder equity) that, in accordance with GAAP consistently applied, would be included in determining total liabilities as shown on the liability side of a balance sheet of such Person as at the date on which the Indebtedness is to be determined, (b) all obligations of such Person,

contingent or otherwise, as account party or applicant (or equivalent status) in respect of any standby letters of credit or equivalent instruments, and (c) without duplication, the amount of Guarantees by such Person of items described in clauses (a) and (b); provided, however, that Indebtedness of a Person shall not include (i) any Junior Subordinated Debt owned by any issuer of Hybrid Equity Securities, (ii) any Guarantee by the Borrower or its Subsidiaries of payments with respect to any Hybrid Equity Securities, (iii) any Hybrid Equity Securities, or (iv) any Securitization Securities.

"Indemnified Taxes" has the meaning specified in Section 4.3(a).

"Insolvency" means, with respect to any Multiemployer Plan, the condition that such Plan is insolvent within the meaning of Section 4245 of ERISA (and "Insolvent" shall be construed accordingly for such purposes).

"Interest Period" means, as to any Borrowing, the period commencing on the date of such Loan or Borrowing and ending on the numerically corresponding day in the calendar month that is one, three or six months thereafter (or such other period as is available to all of the Banks), as specified in the applicable Borrowing Request or Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation; provided that (i) if any Interest Period would end on a day other than a Business Day, such Interest Period shall be extended to the next succeeding Business Day unless such next succeeding Business Day would fall in the next calendar month, in which case such Interest Period shall end on the next preceding Business Day, (ii) any Interest Period that commences on the last Business Day of a calendar month (or on a day for which there is no numerically corresponding day in the last calendar month of such Interest Period) shall end on the last Business Day of the last calendar month of such Interest Period, (iii) no Interest Period shall extend beyond the Maturity Date and (iv) no tenor that has been removed from this definition pursuant to Section 3.9(d) shall be available for specification in such Borrowing Request or Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation. For purposes hereof, the date of a Loan or Borrowing initially shall be the date on which such Loan or Borrowing is made and thereafter shall be the effective date of the most recent conversion or continuation of such Loan or Borrowing.

"Investment" has the meaning specified in Section 7.2(g).

"IRS" means the United States Internal Revenue Service.

"Junior Subordinated Debt" means subordinated debt of the Borrower or any Subsidiary of the Borrower (i) that is issued to an issuer of Hybrid Equity Securities in connection with the issuance of such Hybrid Equity Securities, (ii) the payment of the principal of which and interest on which is subordinated (with certain exceptions) to the prior payment in full in cash or its equivalent of all senior indebtedness of the obligor thereunder and (iii) that has an original tenor no earlier than 30 years from the issuance thereof.

"Lead Arranger" means Mizuho Bank, Ltd., in its capacity as the lead left arranger and sole bookrunner.

“Lien” means any mortgage, deed of trust, pledge, hypothecation, assignment, deposit arrangement, charge, security interest, encumbrance or lien of any kind whatsoever (including any Capital Lease).

“Loan” has the meaning specified in Section 2.1(a).

“Loan Documents” means this Agreement, the Notes and the Fee Letters.

“Loan Increase Agreement” means a Loan Increase Agreement in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Administrative Agent and the Borrower, which is entered into by and among the Borrower, the Administrative Agent and one or more New Banks and/or Increasing Banks in order to provide for a Loan Increase.

“Loan Percentage” means, as to any Bank at any time, a fraction (expressed as a percentage) the numerator of which is the amount of the sum of such Bank’s Commitment and the Outstanding Extensions of Credit of such Bank, in each case, then outstanding, and the denominator of which is the sum of the Total Commitments and the Total Outstanding Extensions of Credit, in each case, then in effect; provided that in the case of Section 2.4 when a Defaulting Bank shall exist, “Loan Percentage” shall mean the percentage of the sum of the Total Commitments and the Total Outstanding Extensions of Credit, in each case, then in effect (disregarding any Defaulting Bank’s Commitment or, if the Commitments shall have terminated, the Outstanding Extensions of Credit of such Defaulting Bank then outstanding) represented by the sum of such Bank’s Commitment and the Outstanding Extensions of Credit of such Bank, in each case, then in effect.

“Majority Banks” means, at any time, subject to Section 2.4, Banks having Commitments and Outstanding Extensions of Credit with an aggregate value in excess of 50% of the sum of the Total Commitments and the Total Outstanding Extensions of Credit, in each case, then in effect; provided that the Commitments or Outstanding Extensions of Credit, as applicable, of any Bank that is an Affiliate of the Borrower and of any Defaulting Bank shall, in each case, be excluded for purposes of making a determination of Majority Banks. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if there are two (2) or more Banks, then “Majority Banks” shall in no event mean less than two (2) Banks.

“Mandatory Payment Preferred Stock” means any preference or preferred stock of the Borrower or of any Consolidated Subsidiary (other than (x) any preference or preferred stock issued to the Borrower or its Subsidiaries, (y) Hybrid Equity Securities, and (z) Junior Subordinated Debt) that is subject to mandatory redemption, sinking fund or retirement provisions (regardless of whether any portion thereof is due and payable within one year).

“Margin Stock” has the meaning assigned to such term in Regulation U.

“Material Adverse Effect” means any material adverse effect on the ability of the Borrower to perform its obligations under the Loan Documents on a timely basis (it being understood that Material Adverse Effect shall not include the effect of any True-Up Litigation).

"Maturity Date" means the eighteenth (18th) month anniversary of the Closing Date.

"Maximum Incremental Amount" means, as of any date of determination, \$200,000,000 *minus* the sum of the aggregate principal amount of (x) all Loan Increases and Loans funded in respect of Commitments incurred pursuant to any Commitment Increases and (y) all outstanding Commitments incurred pursuant to any Commitment Increase, in each case, as of such date.

"Moody's" means Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and any successor rating agency.

"Multiemployer Plan" means a Plan that is a multiemployer plan as defined in Section 4001(a)(3) of ERISA.

"Net Tangible Assets" means the total assets of the Borrower, its Consolidated Subsidiaries and the Unrestricted Subsidiaries, minus goodwill and other intangible assets as shown on the balance sheet of the Borrower, its Consolidated Subsidiaries and the Unrestricted Subsidiaries delivered pursuant to Section 7.1(a) in respect of the most recently ended fiscal quarter of the Borrower.

"New Bank" has the meaning specified in Section 2.3(a).

"Non-Recourse Debt" means (i) any Indebtedness for Borrowed Money incurred by any Project Financing Subsidiary to finance the acquisition, improvement, installation, design, engineering, construction, development, completion, maintenance or operation of, or otherwise to pay costs and expenses relating to or incurred in connection with providing financing for, any project, which Indebtedness for Borrowed Money does not provide for recourse against the Borrower or any Subsidiary of the Borrower (other than a Project Financing Subsidiary and such recourse as exists under a Performance Guaranty) or any property or asset of the Borrower or any Subsidiary of the Borrower (other than Capital Stock of, or the property or assets of, a Project Financing Subsidiary and such recourse as exists under a Performance Guaranty) and (ii) any refinancing of such Indebtedness for Borrowed Money that does not increase the outstanding principal amount thereof (other than to pay costs incurred in connection therewith and the capitalization of any interest, fees, premium or penalties) at the time of the refinancing or increase the property subject to any Lien securing such Indebtedness for Borrowed Money or otherwise add additional security or support for such Indebtedness for Borrowed Money.

"Note" means a promissory note of the Borrower in favor of a Bank evidencing the Loans made by such Bank in substantially the form of Exhibit D.

"Notice of Borrowing" means a notice of borrowing, substantially in the form of Exhibit A.

"Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation" has the meaning specified in Section 3.6(c).

“NYFRB” means the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

“Other Connection Taxes” means Taxes imposed as a result of a present or former connection between Bank or the Administrative Agent and the jurisdiction (or political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein) imposing such Tax (other than a connection arising solely from such recipient having executed, delivered or performed its obligations or received a payment under, or enforced, this Agreement or any other Loan Document).

“Other Covenant Trigger Date” means, for any Applicable Storm as to which a Storm Certificate has been received by the Administrative Agent, the earliest to occur of (x) the issuance, in one or more transactions, of Securitization Securities in respect of all Storm Restoration Cost Recoveries arising in connection with such Applicable Storm, (y) the first anniversary of the delivery of such Storm Certificate, and (z) the revocation by the Borrower of such Storm Certificate in accordance with Section 7.2(h).

“Other Taxes” has the meaning specified in Section 4.3(b).

“Outside Date” means the six (6) month anniversary of the Closing Date.

“Outstanding Extensions of Credit” means, as to any Bank at any time, an amount equal to the aggregate principal amount of all Loans made by such Bank then outstanding.

“Parent” means, with respect to any Bank, any Person as to which such Bank is, directly or indirectly, a subsidiary.

“Participant” has the meaning specified in Section 10.6(b).

“Participant Register” has the meaning specified in Section 10.6(b).

“Payment Recipient” has the meaning assigned to it in Section 9.12(a).

“PBGC” means the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation established pursuant to Subtitle A of Title IV of ERISA or any successor.

“Performance Guaranty” means any guaranty issued in connection with any Non-Recourse Debt that (i) if secured, is secured only by assets of or Capital Stock of a Project Financing Subsidiary, and (ii) guarantees to the provider of such Non-Recourse Debt or any other Person (a) performance of the improvement, installment, design, engineering, construction, acquisition, development, completion, maintenance or operation of, or otherwise affects any such act in respect of, all or any portion of the project that is financed by such Non-Recourse Debt, (b) completion of the minimum agreed equity or other contributions or support to the relevant Project Financing Subsidiary, or (c) performance by a Project Financing Subsidiary of obligations to Persons other than the provider of such Non-Recourse Debt.

“Periodic Term SOFR Determination Day” has the meaning specified in the definition of “Term SOFR”.

“Permitted Liens” means, with respect to any Person:

(a) Liens for taxes, assessments or other governmental charges that are not delinquent or that remain payable without any penalty, or the validity or amount of which is contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings, provided, however, that adequate reserves with respect thereto are maintained on the books of such Person in accordance with GAAP, and provided, further, that any right to seizure, levy, attachment, sequestration, foreclosure or garnishment with respect to Property of such Person or any Subsidiary of such Person by reason of such Lien has not matured, or has been, and continues to be, effectively enjoined or stayed;

(b) landlord Liens for rent not yet due and payable and Liens for materialmen, mechanics, warehousemen, carriers, employees, workmen, repairmen and other similar nonconsensual Liens imposed by operation of law, for current wages or accounts payable or other sums not yet delinquent, in each case arising in the ordinary course of business or, if overdue, that are being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings, provided, however, that any right to seizure, levy, attachment, sequestration, foreclosure or garnishment with respect to Property of such Person or any Subsidiary of such Person by reason of such Lien has not matured, or has been, and continues to be, effectively enjoined or stayed;

(c) Liens (other than any Lien imposed pursuant to Section 401(a)(29) or 412(n) of the Code, ERISA or any environmental law, order, rule or regulation) incurred or deposits made, in each case, in the ordinary course of business, (i) in connection with workers’ compensation, unemployment insurance and other types of social security or (ii) to secure (or to obtain letters of credit that secure) the performance of tenders, statutory obligations, surety and appeal bonds, bids, leases, performance or payment bonds, purchase, construction, sales contracts and other similar obligations, in each case not incurred or made in connection with the borrowing of money, the obtaining of advances or the payment of the deferred purchase price of property;

(d) Liens (other than Liens for taxes, assessments or other governmental charges) arising out of or in connection with any litigation or other legal proceeding that is being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings; provided, however, that adequate reserves with respect thereto are maintained on the books of such Person in accordance with GAAP; and provided, further, that, subject to Section 8.1(i) (so long as such Lien is discharged or released within 60 days of attachment thereof), any right to seizure, levy, attachment, sequestration, foreclosure or garnishment with respect to Property of such Person or any Subsidiary of such Person by reason of such Lien has not matured, or has been, and continues to be, effectively enjoined or stayed;

(e) precautionary filings under the applicable Uniform Commercial Code made by a lessor with respect to personal property leased to such Person or any Subsidiary of such Person;

(f) other non-material Liens or encumbrances none of which secures Indebtedness for Borrowed Money of the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries or interferes materially with the use of the Property affected in the ordinary conduct of Borrower's or its Subsidiaries' business and which, individually or in the aggregate, do not have a Material Adverse Effect;

(g) easements, rights-of-way, restrictions and other similar encumbrances and exceptions to title existing or incurred in the ordinary course of business that, in the aggregate, do not in any case materially detract from the value of the property subject thereto or materially interfere with the ordinary conduct of the business of the Borrower and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole;

(h) (i) Liens created by Capital Leases, provided that the Liens created by any such Capital Lease attach only to the Property leased to the Borrower or one of its Subsidiaries pursuant thereto, (ii) purchase money Liens securing Indebtedness of the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries (including such Liens securing such Indebtedness incurred within twelve months of the date on which such Property was acquired), provided that all such Liens attach only to the Property purchased with the proceeds of the Indebtedness secured thereby and only secure the Indebtedness incurred to finance such purchase, (iii) Liens on receivables, customer charges, notes, ownership interests, contracts or contract rights created in connection with a sale, securitization or monetization of such receivables, customer charges, notes, ownership interests, contracts or contract rights, and Liens on rights of the Borrower or any Subsidiary related to such receivables, customer charges, notes, ownership interests, contracts or contract rights which are transferred to the purchaser of such receivables, customer charges, notes, ownership interests, contracts or contract rights in connection with such sale, securitization or monetization, provided that such Liens secure only the obligations of the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries in connection with such sale, securitization or monetization and (iv) Liens created by leases that do not constitute Capital Leases at the time such leases are entered into, provided that the Liens created thereby attach only to the Property leased to the Borrower or one of its Subsidiaries pursuant thereto;

(i) Liens on cash and short-term investments (i) deposited by the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries in accounts with or on behalf of futures contract brokers or other counterparties or (ii) pledged by the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries, in the case of clause (i) or (ii) to secure its obligations with respect to contracts (including physical delivery, option (whether cash or financial), exchange, swap and futures contracts) for the purchase or sale of any energy-related commodity or interest rate or currency rate management contracts;

(j) Liens on (i) Property owned by a Project Financing Subsidiary or (ii) equity interests in a Project Financing Subsidiary (including in each case a pledge of partnership interests, common stock or membership interests in a limited liability company) securing Indebtedness of the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries incurred in connection with a Project Financing; and

(k) Liens on equity interests in an Unrestricted Subsidiary (including in each case a pledge of partnership interests, common stock or membership interests in a limited liability company) securing, subject to Section 7.2(g), Indebtedness of such Unrestricted Subsidiary.

“Person” means an individual, partnership, corporation (including a business trust), limited liability company, joint stock company, trust, unincorporated association, joint venture, government (or any political subdivision or agency thereof) or any other entity of whatever nature.

“Plan” means, at a particular time with respect to the Borrower, any employee benefit plan that is covered by ERISA and in respect of which Borrower or a Commonly Controlled Entity is (or, if such plan were terminated at such time, would under Section 4069 of ERISA be deemed to be) an “employer” as defined in Section 3(5) of ERISA.

“Plan Asset Regulations” means the regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Labor at 29 C.F.R. Section 2510.3-101 *et seq.*, as modified by Section 3(42) of ERISA, as amended from time to time.

“Platform” has the meaning specified in Section 10.2(b).

“Prime Rate” means, at any time, the rate of interest per annum publicly announced by the Administrative Agent from time to time as its prime rate. Each change in the Prime Rate shall be effective as of the opening of business on the day such change in such prime rate occurs. The rate announced publicly by the Administrative Agent as its prime rate is an index or base rate and shall not necessarily be its lowest or best rate charged to its customers or other banks.

“Project Financing” means any Indebtedness or lease obligations that do not constitute Capital Leases at the time such leases are entered into, in each case that are incurred to finance a project or group of projects (including any construction financing) to the extent that such Indebtedness (or other obligations) expressly are not recourse to the Borrower or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries (other than a Project Financing Subsidiary) or any of their respective Property other than the Property of a Project Financing Subsidiary and equity interests in a Project Financing Subsidiary (including in each case a pledge of partnership interests, common stock or membership interests in a limited liability company).

“Project Financing Subsidiary” means any Restricted Subsidiary of the Borrower (or any other Person in which Borrower directly or indirectly owns a 50% or less interest) whose principal purpose is to incur Project Financing or to become an owner of interests in a Person so created to conduct the business activities for which such Project Financing was incurred, and substantially all the fixed assets of which Subsidiary or Person are those fixed assets being financed (or to be financed) in whole or in part by one or more Project Financings.

“Property” means any interest or right in any kind of property or asset, whether real, personal or mixed, owned or leased, tangible or intangible and whether now held or hereafter acquired.

“PTE” means a prohibited transaction class exemption issued by the U.S. Department of Labor, as any such exemption may be amended from time to time.

“Public Lender” has the meaning specified in Section 10.2(b).

“PUC” means the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

“Purchasing Banks” has the meaning specified in Section 10.6(c).

“Rating Agencies” means (a) S&P and (b) Moody’s.

“Register” has the meaning specified in Section 10.6(d).

“Regulation U” means Regulation U of the Board or any other regulation hereafter promulgated by the Board to replace the prior Regulation U and having substantially the same function.

“Relevant Governmental Body” means the Federal Reserve Board or the NYFRB, or a committee officially endorsed or convened by the Federal Reserve Board or the NYFRB, or any successor thereto.

“Reportable Event” means any of the events set forth in Section 4043(c) of ERISA and PBGC Reg. § 4043, other than those events as to which the thirty-day notice period is waived under PBGC Reg. § 4043 or other regulations, notices or rulings issued by the PBGC.

“Requirement of Law” means, as to any Person, any law, statute, ordinance, decree, requirement, order, judgment, rule or regulation of any Governmental Authority.

“Resolution Authority” means an EEA Resolution Authority or, with respect to any UK Financial Institution, a UK Resolution Authority.

“Responsible Officer” means, with respect to any Person, its chief financial officer, chief accounting officer, assistant treasurer, treasurer or controller of such Person or any other officer of such Person whose primary duties are similar to the duties of any of the previously listed officers of such Person.

“Restricted Subsidiaries” means all Subsidiaries of the Borrower other than Unrestricted Subsidiaries.

“S&P” means S&P Global Ratings, a division of S&P Global Inc., or any successor to the rating agency business thereof.

“Sanctioned Country” means, at any time, a country, region or territory which is itself the subject or target of any Sanctions (at the time of this Agreement, limited to Belarus, the Crimea, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson Regions of Ukraine, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic and the so-called Luhansk People’s Republic and Russia).

“Sanctioned Person” means, at any time, (a) any Person listed in any Sanctions-related list of designated Persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Department of State, (b) any Person operating, organized or resident in a Sanctioned Country or (c) any Person controlled or 50% or more owned by any such Person or Persons described in the foregoing clauses (a) or (b).

“Sanctions” means economic or financial sanctions or trade embargoes imposed, administered or enforced from time to time by the U.S. government, including, without limitation, those administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury or the U.S. Department of State.

“SEC” means the Securities and Exchange Commission and any successor thereto.

“Secured Indebtedness” means, with respect to any Person, all Indebtedness secured (or for which the holder of such Indebtedness has an existing right, contingent or otherwise, to be secured) by any Lien on any Property (including accounts and contract rights) owned by such Person or any of its Subsidiaries, even though such Person has not assumed or become liable for the payment of such Indebtedness; provided, however, that Indebtedness of an Unrestricted Subsidiary or Project Financing Subsidiary shall not be deemed to be Secured Indebtedness of the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary solely as a result of being secured by Liens on Capital Stock of such Unrestricted Subsidiary or Project Financing Subsidiary.

“Securitization Securities” means (i) transition bonds issued pursuant to the Texas Electric Choice Plan if (and only if) no recourse may be had to the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries (or to their respective assets) for the payment of such obligations, other than the issuer of the bonds and its assets, provided that payment of transition charges by any retail electric provider (“REP”) in accordance with such legislation, whether or not such REP has collected such charges from the retail electric customers, shall not be deemed “recourse” hereunder, including any REP that is a Subsidiary of the Borrower or a division of an Affiliate of the Borrower or any Affiliate of the Borrower, (ii) bonds or other debt securities issued to securitize the regulatory assets and related rights of the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries arising in connection with the recovery of the costs of restoration, repair and related matters following any Effective Applicable Storm if (and only if) recourse for the payment of debt service of such bonds is limited to such regulatory assets and related rights and (iii) bonds or other debt securities issued to securitize the intangible regulatory assets and related rights of the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries arising pursuant to regulatory approval of a special utility tariff or similar revenue stream to recover costs such as the costs of, or related to, removal, restoration,

repair or early retirement of facilities and other assets, excess fuel costs, other unforeseen or extraordinary costs as a result of a natural disaster or stranded asset costs, or costs associated with the issuance and servicing of Securitization Securities, if (and only if) recourse for the payment of debt service of such bonds or other debt securities is limited to (A) such special utility tariff or similar revenue stream (and in no event to the tangible underlying regulatory asset of the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries (other than the issuer of the bonds and its assets)) or (B) rights under a financing order issued by a state regulatory body to the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries to bill, charge and collect dedicated charges to pay the debt service and other authorized costs of such bonds or other debt securities; it being understood that obligations of the “sponsor” or “servicer” in the form of standard sponsor or servicer undertakings shall not constitute “recourse”, and in either case, no recourse of such bonds or other debt securities shall exist to the Borrower and any Subsidiary of the Borrower other than to the Securitization Subsidiary that issued the Securitization Securities.

“Securitization Subsidiary” means a direct or indirect special purpose subsidiary of the Borrower created to issue Securitization Securities.

“Significant Subsidiary” means (i) for the purposes of determining what constitutes an “Event of Default” under Sections 8.1(f), (g), (h), (i) and (j), a Subsidiary of the Borrower (other than a Project Financing Subsidiary) whose total assets represent at least 10% of the total assets of the Borrower, on a consolidated basis and (ii) for all other purposes the “Significant Subsidiaries” shall be those Subsidiaries of the Borrower whose total assets represent at least 10% of the total assets of the Borrower on a consolidated basis, in the case of each of (i) and (ii), as determined in accordance with GAAP for the Borrower’s most recently completed fiscal year and identified in the certificate most recently delivered pursuant to Section 7.1(a)(vi); provided that no Unrestricted Subsidiary or Securitization Subsidiary shall be deemed to be a Significant Subsidiary or subject to the restrictions, covenants or Events of Default under this Agreement.

“Single Employer Plan” means any Plan that is covered by Title IV of ERISA, but that is not a Multiemployer Plan.

“SOFR” means, with respect to any Business Day, a rate per annum equal to the secured overnight financing rate for such Business Day published by the SOFR Administrator on the SOFR Administrator’s Website at approximately 8:00 A.M. (New York City time) on the immediately succeeding Business Day.

“SOFR Administrator” means the NYFRB (or a successor administrator of the secured overnight financing rate).

“SOFR Administrator’s Website” means the NYFRB’s website, currently at <http://www.newyorkfed.org>, or any successor source for the secured overnight financing rate identified as such by the SOFR Administrator from time to time.

“SOFR Borrowing” means, as to any Borrowing, the SOFR Loans comprising such Borrowing.

“SOFR Determination Day” has the meaning specified in the definition of “Daily Simple SOFR”.

“SOFR Loan” means a Loan that bears interest at a rate based on Term SOFR, other than pursuant to clause (c) of the definition of “Alternate Base Rate”.

“SOFR Rate Day” has the meaning specified in the definition of “Daily Simple SOFR”.

“Storm Certificate” means, as to any Applicable Storm, a certificate executed by a Responsible Officer of the Borrower certifying that:

(i) such Responsible Officer reasonably believes that an Applicable Storm has occurred and providing the date of such occurrence and reasonable detail of such Applicable Storm;

(ii) such Responsible Officer reasonably believes that the system restoration costs (as defined in the Texas Recovery Law) incurred by the Borrower and its Subsidiaries in connection with such Applicable Storm (before giving effect to any insurance, government grants and other recoveries that the Borrower and its Subsidiaries may receive in connection with such Applicable Storm) are reasonably likely to exceed \$100,000,000 in a consecutive twelve-month period;

(iii) the Borrower (or a Subsidiary thereof) intends to seek to use securitization financing provided for in the Texas Recovery Law to recover all or a part of such system restoration costs relating to such Applicable Storm;

(iv) after giving effect to the delivery of such Storm Certificate, the representations and warranties of the Borrower contained in Section 6.1 of this Agreement and in the other Loan Documents are true and correct in all material respects on and as of the date of such certificate (except for (i) those representations or warranties or parts thereof that, by their terms, expressly relate solely to a specific date, in which case such representations and warranties shall be true and correct in all material respects as of such specific date and (ii) the representations and warranties contained in Sections 6.1(j) and (k) which shall not be required to be made), as though made on and as of the date of such certificate; and

(v) after giving effect to the delivery of such Storm Certificate, no Default or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing.

“Storm Certificate Effective Date” means, for any Storm Certificate, the date of the receipt of such Storm Certificate by the Administrative Agent.

“Storm Restoration Cost Recoveries” means the amount expected or remaining to be collected from customers in respect of the costs and expenses incurred in the repair or replacement of the electric transmission and/or distribution system supporting operations of the Borrower and its Consolidated Subsidiaries and related recovery arising from any Effective Applicable Storm, as the case may be.

“Subsidiary” means, as to any Person, a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other entity of which more than 50% of the outstanding shares of Capital Stock or other ownership interests having ordinary voting power (other than Capital Stock or such other ownership interests having such power only by reason of the happening of a contingency) to elect directors or other managers of such corporation, partnership or other entity are at the time owned, directly or indirectly, through one or more Subsidiaries of such Person, by such Person; provided, however, that no Securitization Subsidiary shall be deemed to be a Subsidiary of the Borrower for any purpose under this Agreement.

“Swap Agreement” means any agreement with respect to any swap, forward, future or derivative transaction or option or similar agreement involving, or settled by reference to, one or more rates, currencies, commodities, equity or debt instruments or securities, or economic, financial or pricing indices or measures of economic, financial or pricing risk or value or any similar transaction or any combination of these transactions; provided that no phantom stock or similar plan providing for payments only on account of services provided by current or former directors, officers, employees or consultants of the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries shall be a “Swap Agreement”.

“Taxes” has the meaning specified in Section 4.3(a).

“Term SOFR” means,

(a) for any calculation with respect to a SOFR Loan, the Term SOFR Reference Rate for a tenor comparable to the applicable Interest Period on the day (such day, the “Periodic Term SOFR Determination Day”) that is two (2) U.S. Government Securities Business Days prior to the first day of such Interest Period, as such rate is published by the Term SOFR Administrator; provided, however, that if as of 5:00 p.m. (New York City time) on any Periodic Term SOFR Determination Day the Term SOFR Reference Rate for the applicable tenor has not been published by the Term SOFR Administrator and a Benchmark Replacement Date with respect to the Term SOFR Reference Rate has not occurred, then Term SOFR will be the Term SOFR Reference Rate for such tenor as published by the Term SOFR Administrator on the first preceding U.S. Government Securities Business Day for which such Term SOFR Reference Rate for such tenor was published by the Term SOFR Administrator so long as such first preceding U.S. Government Securities Business Day is not more than three (3) U.S. Government Securities Business Days prior to such Periodic Term SOFR Determination Day, in each case, plus the Term SOFR Adjustment, and

(b) for any calculation with respect to an ABR Loan on any day, the Term SOFR Reference Rate for a tenor of one month on the day (such day, the “ABR Term SOFR Determination Day”) that is two (2) U.S. Government Securities Business Days prior to such day, as such rate is published by the Term SOFR Administrator; provided, however, that if as of 5:00 p.m. (New York City time) on any ABR Term SOFR Determination Day the Term SOFR Reference Rate for the applicable tenor has not been published by the Term SOFR Administrator and a Benchmark Replacement Date with respect to the Term SOFR Reference Rate has not occurred, then Term SOFR will be the Term SOFR Reference Rate for such tenor as published by the Term SOFR Administrator on the first preceding U.S. Government Securities Business Day for which such Term SOFR Reference Rate for such tenor was published by the Term SOFR Administrator so long as such first preceding U.S. Government Securities Business Day is not more than three (3) U.S. Government Securities Business Days prior to such ABR Term SOFR Determination Day, plus the Term SOFR Adjustment;

provided, further, that if Term SOFR determined as provided above (including pursuant to the proviso under clause (a) or clause (b) above) shall ever be less than the Floor, then Term SOFR shall be deemed to be the Floor.

“Term SOFR Adjustment” means a percentage equal to 0.10% (10 basis points) per annum.

“Term SOFR Administrator” means CME Group Benchmark Administration Limited (CBA) (or a successor administrator of the Term SOFR Reference Rate selected by the Administrative Agent in its reasonable discretion).

“Term SOFR Reference Rate” means the forward-looking term rate based on SOFR.

“Termination Date” means the Maturity Date or any earlier date on which all unpaid principal amounts of the Loans hereunder have been declared due and payable in accordance with this Agreement.

“Texas Recovery Law” means Section 36.401 et seq. of the Texas Utilities Code, as amended from time to time.

“Ticking Fee” has the meaning specified in Section 3.2(a).

“Ticking Fee Rate” means, as of any date, a percentage equal to 0.175% (17.5 basis points) per annum.

“Ticking Fee Trigger Date” has the meaning specified in Section 3.2(a).

“Total Commitments” means, at any time, the aggregate amount of the Commitments of all Banks then in effect. The amount of the Total Commitments as of the date hereof is \$300,000,000.

“Total Outstanding Extensions of Credit” means, at any time, the aggregate amount of the Outstanding Extensions of Credit of all Banks outstanding at such time.

“Tranche” means the collective reference to SOFR Loans, the Interest Periods with respect to all of which begin on the same date and end on the same later date (whether or not such Loans shall originally have been made on the same day).

“Transfer Effective Date” has the meaning specified in Section 10.6(c).

“Transferee” has the meaning specified in Section 10.17.

“Triggering Event” has the meaning specified in Section 4.8(b).

“True-Up Litigation” means any litigation or other proceeding in connection with the determination by the PUC of the recovery by CenterPoint and its Subsidiaries of stranded costs and other amounts to be recovered in the true-up process.

“Type” refers to the determination of whether a Loan is an ABR Loan or a SOFR Loan (or a Borrowing comprised of such Loans).

“U.S. Government Securities Business Day” means any day except for (a) a Saturday, (b) a Sunday or (c) a day on which the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association recommends that the fixed income departments of its members be closed for the entire day for purposes of trading in United States government securities.

“UK Financial Institution” means any BRRD Undertaking (as such term is defined under the PRA Rulebook (as amended from time to time) promulgated by the United Kingdom Prudential Regulation Authority) or any person subject to IFPRU 11.6 of the FCA Handbook (as amended from time to time) promulgated by the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority, which includes certain credit institutions and investment firms, and certain affiliates of such credit institutions or investment firms.

“UK Resolution Authority” means the Bank of England or any other public administrative authority having responsibility for the resolution of any UK Financial Institution.

“Unadjusted Benchmark Replacement” means the applicable Benchmark Replacement excluding the related Benchmark Replacement Adjustment.

“United States” means the United States of America.

“Unrestricted Subsidiary” means any Subsidiary of the Borrower that is designated by the Borrower as an Unrestricted Subsidiary and its direct or indirect Subsidiaries. The Borrower may at any time designate any Subsidiary of the Borrower as an Unrestricted Subsidiary if (x) the aggregate amount of net tangible assets of all Unrestricted Subsidiaries at the time of designation does not exceed, or would not exceed as a result of such designation, 17% of the Net Tangible Assets, (y) such designation and the Investment of the Borrower in such Subsidiary complies with the limitations in Section 7.2(g) and (z) such Subsidiary: (i) has no Indebtedness with recourse to the Borrower and the Restricted Subsidiaries except that permitted under Section 7.2(g); (ii) is not party to any agreement, contract, arrangement or understanding with the Borrower

or any Significant Subsidiary of the Borrower unless the terms of any such agreement, contract, arrangement or understanding and related transactions are substantially no less favorable to the Borrower or such Significant Subsidiary than those that might be obtained at the time from Persons who are not Affiliates of the Borrower; (iii) is a Person with respect to which neither the Borrower nor any of its Significant Subsidiaries has any direct or indirect obligation that violates Section 7.2(g) (A) to subscribe for additional Capital Stock of such Person or (B) to maintain or preserve such Person's financial condition or to cause such Person to achieve any specified levels of operating results; and (iv) does not, either alone or in the aggregate, operate, directly or indirectly, all or substantially all of the business of the Borrower and its Subsidiaries.

Any designation of a Subsidiary of the Borrower as an Unrestricted Subsidiary shall be evidenced by a certificate of a Responsible Officer of the Borrower providing for such designation and certifying that such designation complied with the preceding conditions and was permitted by Section 7.2(g), which certificate shall be delivered to the Administrative Agent. If, at any time, any Unrestricted Subsidiary would fail to meet the preceding requirements as an Unrestricted Subsidiary, it shall thereafter cease to be an Unrestricted Subsidiary for purposes of this Agreement and any Indebtedness of such Subsidiary shall be deemed to be incurred by a Restricted Subsidiary of the Borrower as of such date and, if such Indebtedness is not permitted to be incurred as of such date under Section 7.2(g), the Borrower shall be in default of such covenant. The Borrower may at any time designate any Unrestricted Subsidiary to be a Restricted Subsidiary; provided that such designation shall be deemed to be an incurrence of Indebtedness by such Subsidiary of any outstanding Indebtedness of such Unrestricted Subsidiary and such designation shall only be permitted if (1) such Indebtedness is permitted under this Agreement calculated on a pro forma basis as if such designation had occurred at the beginning of the four-quarter reference period; and (2) no Default or Event of Default would be in existence following such designation.

"Wholly-Owned", when used in reference to any Subsidiary of any Person, means that all the outstanding Capital Stock (other than directors' qualifying shares required by law) of such Subsidiary is at the time owned by such Person or by one or more Wholly-Owned Subsidiaries of such Person, or by such Person and one or more Wholly-Owned Subsidiaries of such Person.

"Write-Down and Conversion Powers" means, (a) with respect to any EEA Resolution Authority, the write-down and conversion powers of such EEA Resolution Authority from time to time under the Bail-In Legislation for the applicable EEA Member Country, which write-down and conversion powers are described in the EU Bail-In Legislation Schedule, and (b) with respect to the United Kingdom, any powers of the applicable Resolution Authority under the Bail-In Legislation to cancel, reduce, modify or change the form of a liability of any UK Financial Institution or any contract or instrument under which that liability arises, to convert all or part of that liability into shares, securities or obligations of that person or any other person, to provide that any such contract or instrument is to have effect as if a right had been exercised under it or to suspend any obligation in respect of that liability or any of the powers under that Bail-In Legislation that are related to or ancillary to any of those powers.

SECTION 1.2. Classification of Loans and Borrowings. For purposes of this Agreement, Loans and Borrowings may be classified and referred to by Type (e.g., a "SOFR Loan" or an "ABR Loan" and a "SOFR Borrowing" or an "ABR Borrowing").

SECTION 1.3. Other Definitional Provisions.

(a) Unless otherwise specified therein, all terms defined in this Agreement shall have such defined meanings when used in the other Loan Documents or any certificate or other document made or delivered pursuant hereto or thereto.

(b) As used herein and in the other Loan Documents, and any certificate or other document made or delivered pursuant hereto or thereto, (i) the words "include", "includes" and "including" shall be deemed to be followed by the phrase "without limitation", (ii) the word "incur" shall be construed to mean incur, create, issue, assume, become liable in respect of or suffer to exist (and the words "incurred" and "incurrence" shall have correlative meanings), (iii) the words "asset" and "property" shall be construed to have the same meaning and effect and to refer to any and all tangible and intangible assets and properties, including cash, Capital Stock, securities, revenues, accounts, leasehold interests and contract rights, (iv) references to agreements or other Contractual Obligations shall, unless otherwise specified, be deemed to refer to such agreements or Contractual Obligations as amended, supplemented, restated or otherwise modified from time to time, and (v) references to any Person shall, unless otherwise specified, be construed to include such Person's successors and assigns.

(c) The words "hereof", "herein" and "hereunder" and words of similar import, when used in this Agreement, shall refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular provision of this Agreement, and Section, Schedule and Exhibit references are to this Agreement unless otherwise specified.

(d) The meanings given to terms defined herein shall be equally applicable to both the singular and plural forms of such terms.

SECTION 1.4. Accounting Terms; GAAP. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, all terms of an accounting or financial nature in this Agreement shall be construed in accordance with GAAP; provided that if the Borrower notifies the Administrative Agent that the Borrower requests an amendment to any provision of this Agreement to eliminate the effect of any change occurring after the date hereof in GAAP or in the application thereof on the operation of such provision (or if the Administrative Agent notifies the Borrower that the Majority Banks request an amendment to any provision of this Agreement for such purpose), regardless of whether any such notice is given before or after such change in GAAP or in the application thereof, then such provision shall be interpreted on the basis of GAAP as in effect and applied immediately before such change shall have become effective until such notice shall have been withdrawn or such provision amended in accordance with this Agreement. Notwithstanding any other provision contained herein, GAAP will be deemed for all purposes hereof to treat leases that would have been classified as operating leases in accordance with GAAP as in effect on December 31, 2014, in a manner consistent with the treatment of such leases under GAAP as in effect on December 31, 2014, notwithstanding any modifications or interpretive changes thereto or implementations of any such modifications or interpretive changes that may have occurred thereafter.

SECTION 1.5. Disclaimer and Exculpation. The Administrative Agent does not warrant or accept any responsibility for, and shall not have any liability with respect to, the administration or submission related to Term SOFR Reference Rate, Term SOFR, Daily Simple SOFR, or any Benchmark or with respect to any alternative, successor or replacement rate thereof (including any Benchmark Replacement), or any calculation, component definition thereof or rate referenced in the definition thereof, including, without limitation, (a) any such alternative, successor or replacement rate (including any Benchmark Replacement) implemented pursuant to Section 3.9, and (b) the effect, implementation or composition of any Conforming Changes pursuant to Section 3.3(e) or Section 3.9(b), including without limitation, whether the composition or characteristics of any such alternative, successor or replacement reference rate (including any Benchmark Replacement) will be similar to, or produce the same value or economic equivalence of, Term SOFR Reference Rate, Term SOFR, Daily Simple SOFR, or any Benchmark or have the same volume or liquidity as did Term SOFR Reference Rate, Term SOFR, Daily Simple SOFR, or any Benchmark prior to its discontinuance or unavailability. In addition, the discontinuation of Term SOFR Reference Rate, Term SOFR, Daily Simple SOFR, or any Benchmark and any alternative, successor or replacement reference rate may result in a mismatch between the reference rate referenced in this Agreement and your other financial instruments, including potentially those that are intended as hedges. The Administrative Agent and its Affiliates and/or other related entities may engage in transactions that affect the calculation of Term SOFR Reference Rate, Term SOFR, Daily Simple SOFR, or any Benchmark or any alternative, successor or replacement rate (including any Benchmark Replacement) and/or any relevant adjustments thereto, in each case, with all determinations of such Term SOFR Reference Rate, Term SOFR, Daily Simple SOFR, or any Benchmark or such alternative, successor or replacement rate by the Administrative Agent to be conclusive, absent manifest error. The Administrative Agent may select information sources or services in its reasonable discretion to ascertain Term SOFR Reference Rate, Term SOFR, Daily Simple SOFR, or any Benchmark or any such alternative, successor or replacement rate, in each case pursuant to the terms of this Agreement (as amended, amended and restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time), and shall have no liability to the Borrower, any Bank or any other person or entity for damages of any kind, including direct or indirect, special, punitive, incidental or consequential damages, costs, losses or expenses (whether in tort, contract or otherwise and whether at law or in equity), for any error or calculation of any such rate (or component thereof) provided by any such information source or service.

SECTION 1.6. Divisions. For all purposes under the Loan Documents, in connection with any division or plan of division under Delaware law (or any comparable event under a different jurisdiction's laws): (a) if any asset, right, obligation or liability of any Person becomes the asset, right, obligation or liability of a different Person, then it shall be deemed to have been transferred from the original Person to the subsequent Person, and (b) if any new Person comes into existence, such new Person shall be deemed to have been organized on the first date of its existence by the holders of its equity interests at such time.

ARTICLE II
AMOUNTS AND TERMS OF THE LOANS

SECTION 2.1. The Commitments.

(a) Each Bank severally agrees, on the terms and subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth, to make loans (each such loan, a “Loan”) to the Borrower on any Business Day during the period from the Closing Date until the Commitment Termination Date in an aggregate principal amount that will not result in (i) such Bank’s Outstanding Extensions of Credit exceeding such Bank’s Commitment or (ii) the Total Outstanding Extensions of Credit exceeding the Total Commitments; provided that, for purposes of this Section 2.1(a), any Commitments that were terminated as a result of the funding of the Loans related thereto (including in respect of Commitment Increases and Loan Increases) shall be included in calculating Bank’s Commitments and Total Commitments; provided further, that no Loan shall be made as a SOFR Loan with an Interest Period ending after the Maturity Date. The portion of each Bank’s Commitment that exists on the Closing Date shall automatically terminate upon the funding of the Loans to be made by it prior to the Commitment Termination Date in respect of such Commitment; provided that all of each Bank’s Commitments shall terminate on the Commitment Termination Date.

(b) Each Borrowing shall be denominated in Dollars and shall consist of Loans of the same Type made on the same day by the Banks ratably according to their respective Loan Percentages. Each Borrowing of SOFR Loans by the Borrower shall be in an aggregate principal amount of \$5,000,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000,000 in excess thereof; provided that no more than ten SOFR Tranches shall be outstanding at any time. Each Borrowing of ABR Loans by the Borrower shall be in an aggregate principal amount of \$1,000,000 or an integral multiple of \$500,000 in excess thereof. The Borrower may prepay Loans pursuant to Section 4.6. The principal amount outstanding on the Loans (including Loans effected pursuant to a Commitment Increase or a Loan Increase) and all other amounts accrued hereunder shall be due and payable by the Borrower on the Termination Date, together with accrued and unpaid interest thereon.

SECTION 2.2. Procedure for Loan Borrowing.

(a) The Borrower may, from time to time, borrow Loans on any Business Day, provided that the Borrower may borrow Loans (x) which are funded in respect of Commitments existing on the Closing Date on no more than three (3) occasions and only during the period beginning on the Closing Date through and excluding the Commitment Termination Date, (y) which are funded in respect of Commitments incurred pursuant to a Commitment Increase which becomes effective prior to the Commitment Termination Date on no more than one (1) occasion and only during the period beginning on the Closing Date through and excluding the Commitment Termination Date and (z) which are funded in respect of Commitments incurred pursuant to a Commitment Increase which becomes effective on or after the Commitment Termination Date on only one (1) occasion, provided further, that, in each case, the Borrower shall give the Administrative Agent irrevocable oral notice or written notice pursuant to a Notice of Borrowing, which shall be signed by the Borrower and shall specify therein the requested (i) date of such Borrowing, (ii) Type of Loans comprising such Borrowing, (iii) aggregate amount of such Borrowing and (iv) Interest Period for the Loans comprising such Borrowing (in the case of any Borrowing of SOFR Loans):

(i) not later than 1:00 P.M. (New York City time) on the third U.S. Government Securities Business Day prior to the date of the proposed Borrowing in the case of a Borrowing of SOFR Loans;

(ii) not later than 1:00 P.M. (New York City time) on the Business Day immediately preceding the date of the proposed Borrowing in the case of a Borrowing of Early Funding ABR Loans; and

(iii) not later than 1:00 P.M. (New York City time) on the same Business Day of the proposed Borrowing in the case of a Borrowing of any other ABR Loans.

With respect to any oral notice of borrowing given by the Borrower, the Borrower shall promptly thereafter confirm such notice in writing pursuant to a Notice of Borrowing. Upon receipt of any such notice, the Administrative Agent shall promptly notify each Bank thereof. Each Bank shall, before 3:00 P.M. (New York City time) on the requested Borrowing Date, make available to the Administrative Agent at the Funding Office, in immediately available funds, such Bank's applicable Loan Percentage of such Borrowing; provided, however, that, in the event of a requested ABR Loan with respect to which the Borrower has delivered its Notice of Borrowing on the Business Day immediately preceding the requested Borrowing Date (an "Early Funding ABR Loan"), each Bank shall make its applicable Loan Percentage of such Borrowing available before 10:00 A.M. (New York City time) on the requested Borrowing Date. The Administrative Agent shall, no later than 4:00 P.M. (New York City time) on such date (or no later than 11:00 A.M. (New York City time), in the case of an Early Funding ABR Loan), make available to the Borrower the proceeds of the Loans received by the Administrative Agent hereunder by crediting such account of the Borrower which the Administrative Agent and the Borrower shall from time to time designate. Each Notice of Borrowing shall be irrevocable and binding on the Borrower.

(b) Unless the Administrative Agent shall have received notice from a Bank at least two hours prior to the applicable time described in clause (a) above by which such Bank is required to deliver its funds to the Administrative Agent with respect to any Borrowing that such Bank will not make available to the Administrative Agent such Bank's applicable Loan Percentage of such Borrowing, the Administrative Agent may assume that such Bank has made such portion available to the Administrative Agent on the date of such Borrowing in accordance with Section 2.2(a) and the Administrative Agent may, in reliance upon such assumption, make available to the Borrower on such date a corresponding amount. If such amount is made available to the Administrative Agent on a date after such date of Borrowing, such Bank shall pay to the Administrative Agent on demand an amount equal to the product of (i) the daily average Federal Funds Effective Rate during such period, times (ii) the amount of such Bank's applicable Loan Percentage of such Borrowing, times (iii) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days that elapse from and including such date of Borrowing to the date on which such Bank's applicable Loan Percentage of such Borrowing shall have become immediately available to the Administrative Agent and the denominator of which is 360. A certificate of the Administrative Agent submitted to any Bank with respect to any amounts owing under this Section 2.2(b) shall be conclusive in the absence of manifest error. If such Bank shall repay to

the Administrative Agent such corresponding amount, such amount so repaid shall constitute such Bank's Loan as part of such Borrowing for purposes of this Agreement. If such Bank's applicable Loan Percentage of such Borrowing is not in fact made available to the Administrative Agent by such Bank within one (1) Business Day of such date of Borrowing, the Administrative Agent shall be entitled to recover such amount with interest thereon at the rate per annum, equal to (i) the Alternate Base Rate (in the case of ABR Loans) or (ii) the Federal Funds Effective Rate (in the case of SOFR Loans), on demand, from the Borrower.

(c) The failure of any Bank to make the Loan to be made by it as part of any Borrowing shall not relieve any other Bank of its obligation, if any, hereunder to make its Loan on the date of such Borrowing, but no Bank shall be responsible for the failure of any other Bank to make the Loan to be made by such other Bank on the date of any Borrowing.

SECTION 2.3. Increase in the Total Commitments and Loan Increases.

(a) The Borrower may, without the consent of the Banks or the Administrative Agent, (x) on one occasion during the period beginning on the Closing Date and ending on the Commitment Termination Date and (y) on one occasion on and after the Commitment Termination Date, in each case, cause an increase in the Total Commitments (each, a "Commitment Increase") by obtaining Commitments from one or more additional Eligible Assignees that are not already Banks hereunder (each, a "New Bank") and/or by allowing one or more existing Banks to increase their respective Commitments (each, an "Increasing Bank"); provided that (i) each Commitment Increase shall be in a minimum amount of (A) \$10,000,000 or an integral multiple of \$5,000,000 in excess thereof or (B) if less, the remaining amount of the Maximum Incremental Amount then available, (ii) each Commitment Increase shall become effective as of a date (the "Increase Date") that is at least 30 days prior to the Maturity Date then in effect, (iii) no such Commitment Increase shall exceed the Maximum Incremental Amount, (iv) each New Bank and each Increasing Bank providing any portion of any Commitment Increase must be satisfactory to the Administrative Agent, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned, (v) no Bank shall be required to provide any such increase, and (vi) on the date of any request by the Borrower for a Commitment Increase and on the related Increase Date, the applicable conditions set forth in Section 5.3 shall be satisfied; provided that (1) any Commitments incurred pursuant to any Commitment Increase effected pursuant to the immediately preceding subclause (a)(x) shall terminate on the Commitment Termination Date and (2) any Commitments incurred pursuant to any Commitment Increase effected pursuant to the immediately preceding subclause (a)(y) shall terminate on the date that is two (2) months after the effective date of such Commitment Increase. Any Loan borrowed pursuant to a Commitment Increase that is repaid may not be reborrowed.

(b) Each Commitment Increase must be requested by written notice from the Borrower to the Administrative Agent substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit E. Each such notice shall specify (i) the proposed Increase Date, (ii) the amount of the requested Commitment Increase (which amount shall conform to the requirements of Section 2.3(a)), (iii) the identity of each New Bank and/or each Increasing Bank that is participating in such Commitment Increase, and (iv) the amount of the respective Commitments of the then existing Banks and the New Banks from and after the applicable Increase Date. If the Administrative Agent approves the New Banks and/or Increasing Banks participating in such Commitment

Increase (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned), the Borrower, the Administrative Agent and the applicable New Banks and/or Increasing Banks shall execute a Commitment Increase Agreement (which shall be on the exact same terms and pursuant to the exact same documentation applicable to the Loans hereunder (other than with respect to fees and similar closing payments which shall be as agreed between the Borrower and the New Banks or Increasing Banks, as applicable) and the maturity date of which shall be the Maturity Date), and such Commitment Increase shall be effective on the Increase Date specified therein; provided that, as a condition to the effectiveness of any Commitment Increase, if requested by the Administrative Agent, the Borrower shall deliver to the Administrative Agent (A) certified copies of resolutions of the sole manager of the Borrower approving such Commitment Increase and (B) opinions of counsel for the Borrower (which may be in-house counsel), in form and substance reasonably acceptable to the Administrative Agent, covering such matters covered by the opinions of counsel delivered pursuant to Section 5.1(c) as the Administrative Agent may reasonably request. On each Increase Date, upon fulfillment of the conditions set forth in the immediately preceding sentence, the Administrative Agent shall notify the Banks (including each New Bank) and the Borrower of the occurrence of the Commitment Increase effected on such Increase Date and shall record in the Register the relevant information with respect to each Increasing Bank and each New Bank.

(c) After the Commitment Termination Date, the Borrower may, without the consent of the Banks or the Administrative Agent, from time to time, obtain new Loans hereunder (each, a "Loan Increase") by obtaining term Loans from one or more New Banks and/or by allowing one or more Increasing Banks to provide new Loans hereunder; provided that, no such Loan Increase shall exceed the then-available Maximum Incremental Amount; provided further that no Bank shall be required to provide any such Loan Increase. If the Administrative Agent approves the New Banks and/or Increasing Banks participating in such Loan Increase (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned), the Borrower, the Administrative Agent and the applicable New Banks and/or Increasing Banks shall execute a Loan Increase Agreement (which shall be on the exact same terms and pursuant to the exact same documentation applicable to the Loans hereunder (other than with respect to fees and similar payments which shall be as agreed between the Borrower and the New Banks or Increasing Banks, as applicable) and the maturity date of which shall be the Maturity Date). Any Loan borrowed pursuant to a Loan Increase that is repaid may not be reborrowed. Each Loan Increase may be requested by written notice from the Borrower to the Administrative Agent substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit E.

SECTION 2.4. Defaulting Banks. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement or any other Loan Document to the contrary, if any Bank becomes a Defaulting Bank, then the following provisions shall apply for so long as such Bank is a Defaulting Bank:

(a) Ticking Fees shall cease to accrue on the unfunded portion of the Commitment of such Defaulting Bank pursuant to Section 3.2(b); and

(b) the Commitment and Outstanding Extensions of Credit of such Defaulting Bank shall not be included in determining whether all Banks (or each Bank) or the Majority Banks have taken or may take any action hereunder (including any consent to any amendment, waiver or other modification pursuant to Section 10.1); provided, that this clause (b) shall not apply to

the vote of a Defaulting Bank in the case of an amendment, waiver or other modification requiring the consent of such Bank or each Bank affected thereby if such Bank is an affected Bank; provided, further, that there shall not be any amendment, modification or waiver (i) of any provision of Section 4.2 or Section 10.1 in a manner that would alter the pro rata sharing of payments required thereby, or (ii) causing the reduction of the percentage specified in the definition of Majority Banks, or (iii) causing the consent to the assignment or transfer by the Borrower of any of its respective rights and obligations under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, in each case without the consent of such Bank.

If the Borrower and the Administrative Agent agree in writing in their sole discretion that a Defaulting Bank should no longer be deemed to be a Defaulting Bank, the Administrative Agent will so notify the parties hereto, whereupon that Bank will cease to be a Defaulting Bank; provided that except to the extent otherwise expressly agreed by the affected parties, no change hereunder from Defaulting Bank to Bank will constitute a waiver or release of any claim of any party hereunder arising from that Bank's having been a Defaulting Bank.

The rights and remedies against, and with respect to, a Defaulting Bank under this Section 2.4 are in addition to, and cumulative and not in limitation of, all other rights and remedies that the Administrative Agent and each Bank or the Borrower may at any time have against, or with respect to, such Defaulting Bank.

SECTION 2.5. Acknowledgement and Consent to Bail-In of Affected Financial Institutions. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Loan Document or in any other agreement, arrangement or understanding among any such parties, each party hereto acknowledges that any liability of any Affected Financial Institution arising under any Loan Document, to the extent such liability is unsecured, may be subject to the Write-Down and Conversion Powers of the applicable Resolution Authority and agrees and consents to, and acknowledges and agrees to be bound by:

- (a) the application of any Write-Down and Conversion Powers by the applicable Resolution Authority to any such liabilities arising hereunder which may be payable to it by any party hereto that is an Affected Financial Institution; and
- (b) the effects of any Bail-In Action on any such liability, including, if applicable:
 - (i) a reduction in full or in part or cancellation of any such liability;
 - (ii) a conversion of all, or a portion of, such liability into shares or other instruments of ownership in such Affected Financial Institution, its parent undertaking, or a bridge institution that may be issued to it or otherwise conferred on it, and that such shares or other instruments of ownership will be accepted by it in lieu of any rights with respect to any such liability under this Agreement or any other Loan Document; or
 - (iii) the variation of the terms of such liability in connection with the exercise of the Write-Down and Conversion Powers of the applicable Resolution Authority.

ARTICLE III
PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALL LOANS

SECTION 3.1. Evidence of Loans.

(a) Each Bank shall maintain in accordance with its usual practice an account or accounts evidencing indebtedness of the Borrower to such Bank resulting from each Loan made by such Bank from time to time, including the amounts of principal and interest payable and paid to such Bank from time to time under this Agreement.

(b) The Administrative Agent shall maintain the Register pursuant to Section 10.6(d) and a subaccount therein for each Bank, in which shall be recorded (i) the amount of each Loan made by each Bank through the Administrative Agent hereunder, the Tranche and Type thereof and each Interest Period applicable thereto, (ii) the amount of any principal or interest due and payable or to become due and payable from the Borrower to each Bank hereunder and (iii) both the amount of any sum received by the Administrative Agent hereunder from the Borrower and each Bank's share thereof.

(c) The entries made in the Register and the accounts of each Bank maintained pursuant to Section 3.1(a) shall, to the extent permitted by applicable law, be prima facie evidence of the existence and amount of the obligations of the Borrower therein recorded; provided, however, that the failure of any Bank or the Administrative Agent to maintain the Register or any such account, or any error therein, shall not in any manner affect the obligation of the Borrower to repay (with applicable interest) the Loans actually made to the Borrower by such Bank in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

(d) Any Bank may request that the Loans made by such Bank be evidenced by a Note. In such event, the Borrower shall prepare, execute and deliver to such Bank a Note payable to such Bank.

SECTION 3.2. Fees. (a) The Borrower shall pay to the Administrative Agent, for its own account, the fees in the amounts and on the dates previously agreed to in writing by the Borrower and the Administrative Agent.

(b) Commencing on the date that is ninety days following the Closing Date (the "Ticking Fee Trigger Date"), the Borrower agrees to pay to the Administrative Agent for the account of each Lender (other than, subject to Section 2.4, a Defaulting Lender) a ticking fee (the "Ticking Fee"), which shall accrue at the Ticking Fee Rate on such Lender's Commitment then unfunded from the Ticking Fee Trigger Date until the Commitment Termination Date. The Ticking Fee shall be payable quarterly in arrears on the last Business Day of each March, June, September and December and on the Commitment Termination Date, commencing on the first such date to occur after the Ticking Fee Trigger Date. The Ticking Fee shall be calculated by the Administrative Agent on the basis of a 360-day year for the actual days (including the first day and excluding the last day) occurring in the period for which such fee is payable.

SECTION 3.3. Interest. The Borrower shall pay interest on the unpaid principal amount of each Loan made by each Bank from the date of such Loan until such principal amount shall be paid in full, at the times and at the rates per annum set forth below:

(a) ABR Loans. Each ABR Loan shall bear interest at a rate per annum equal at all times to the lesser of (i) the Alternate Base Rate plus the Applicable Rate and (ii) the Highest Lawful Rate, payable quarterly in arrears on the last Business Day of each March, June, September and December and on the Termination Date.

(b) SOFR Loans. Each SOFR Loan shall bear interest at a rate per annum equal at all times to the lesser of (i) the sum of Term SOFR for the applicable Interest Period for such Loan plus the Applicable Rate and (ii) the Highest Lawful Rate, payable on the last day of such Interest Period and, with respect to Interest Periods of six months or longer, on the ninetieth (90th) day after the commencement of the Interest Period and on each succeeding ninetieth (90th) day during such Interest Period, and on the Termination Date. In addition, interest on each SOFR Loan will be payable upon any payment or prepayment of such SOFR Loan.

(c) Calculations. Interest that is determined by reference to the Alternate Base Rate (to the extent based on the Prime Rate) shall be calculated by the Administrative Agent on the basis of a 365- or 366-day year, as the case may be, for the actual days (including the first day but excluding the last day) occurring in the period in which such interest is payable and otherwise shall be calculated by the Administrative Agent on the basis of a 360-day year for the actual days (including the first day and excluding the last day) occurring in the period for which such interest is payable.

(d) Default Rate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if all or a portion of (i) the principal amount of any Loan, (ii) any interest payable thereon, or (iii) any other amount payable hereunder shall not be paid when due (whether at the stated maturity, by acceleration or otherwise), such overdue amount shall bear interest, payable from time to time on demand, at a rate per annum equal to the lesser of (A) the Highest Lawful Rate and (B) the Default Rate, in each case from the date of such non-payment until such amount is paid in full (after as well as before judgment).

(e) Term SOFR Conforming Changes. In connection with the use or administration of Term SOFR, the Administrative Agent will have the right to make Conforming Changes from time to time and, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein or in any other Loan Document, any amendments implementing such Conforming Changes will become effective without any further action or consent of any other party to this Agreement or any other Loan Document. The Administrative Agent will prior to or concurrently therewith notify the Borrower and the Banks of the effectiveness of any Conforming Changes in connection with the use or administration of Term SOFR.

(f) Determination Conclusive. Each determination of interest rate by the Administrative Agent pursuant to any provisions of this Agreement shall be conclusive and binding on the Borrower and the Banks in the absence of manifest error. The Administrative Agent shall, at the request of the Borrower, deliver to the Borrower a statement showing in reasonable detail the questions used by the Administrative Agent in determining Term SOFR.

SECTION 3.4. [Reserved].

SECTION 3.5. Interest Rate Determination: Inability to Determine Rates.

(a) Subject to this Section 3.5 and Section 3.9, the rate of interest for each SOFR Loan shall be determined by the Administrative Agent two Business Days before the first day of each Interest Period applicable to such Loan. The Administrative Agent shall give prompt notice to the Borrower and the Banks of the applicable interest rate determined by the Administrative Agent for purposes of Sections 3.3(a) and (b) hereof.

(b) Subject to Section 3.9, if, prior to the first day of any Interest Period for a Borrowing of SOFR Loans, the Administrative Agent shall have reasonably determined (which determination shall be conclusive and binding upon the Borrower absent manifest error) that, "Term SOFR" cannot be determined pursuant to the definition thereof, the Administrative Agent shall give written notice thereof to the Borrower and the Banks as soon as practicable thereafter. Upon notice thereof by the Administrative Agent to the Borrower and the Banks, any obligation of the Banks to make SOFR Loans, and any right of the Borrower to continue SOFR Loans or to convert ABR Loans to SOFR Loans, shall be suspended (to the extent of the affected SOFR Loans or affected Interest Periods) until the Administrative Agent revokes such notice. Upon receipt of such notice, (i) the Borrower may revoke any pending request for a borrowing of, conversion to or continuation of SOFR Loans (to the extent of the affected SOFR Loans or affected Interest Periods) or, failing that, the Borrower will be deemed to have converted any such request into a request for a Borrowing of or conversion to ABR Loans in the amount specified therein and (ii) any outstanding affected SOFR Loans will be deemed to have been converted into ABR Loans at the end of the applicable Interest Period. The Administrative Agent will withdraw any such notice when the circumstances giving rise to such notice no longer exist. Subject to Section 3.9, if the Administrative Agent determines (which determination shall be conclusive and binding absent manifest error) that "Term SOFR" cannot be determined pursuant to the definition thereof on any given day, the interest rate on ABR Loans shall be determined by the Administrative Agent without reference to clause (c) of the definition of "Alternate Base Rate" until the Administrative Agent revokes such determination.

SECTION 3.6. Voluntary Interest Conversion or Continuation of Loans.

(a) Each Borrowing initially shall be of the Type specified in the Notice of Borrowing and, in the case of a Borrowing of SOFR Loans, shall have an initial Interest Period as specified in such Notice of Borrowing. Thereafter, the Borrower may, at any time and from time to time, but subject to Section 3.7 below, elect to (i) convert Loans of one Type into Loans of another Type; (ii) convert SOFR Loans for a specified Interest Period into SOFR Loans for a different Interest Period; or (iii) continue SOFR Loans for a specified Interest Period as SOFR Loans for the same Interest Period; provided, however, that if an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing and the Administrative Agent, at the request of the Majority Banks, so notifies the Borrower, then, so long as an Event of Default is continuing, no Loan may be converted into or continued as a SOFR Loan.

(b) To make an election pursuant to this Section, the Borrower shall notify the Administrative Agent of such request by telephone, facsimile or e-mail (i) not later than 1:00 P.M. (New York City time) on the third Business Day prior to the date of the proposed interest conversion or continuation in the case of a conversion into or continuation of a SOFR Loan and (ii) not later than 1:00 P.M. (New York City time) on the Business Day preceding the proposed interest conversion in the case of a conversion into an ABR Loan. Each telephonic notice of interest conversion/continuation given by the Borrower under this Section 3.6, shall be irrevocable and shall be confirmed promptly thereafter in writing.

(c) Each written notice of interest conversion/continuation given by the Borrower under this Section 3.6 and each confirmation of an oral notice of interest conversion/continuation given by the Borrower under this Section 3.6 shall be in substantially the form of Exhibit B hereto ("Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation"). Each such Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation shall specify therein (x) the requested date of such interest conversion or continuation; (y) the Loans to be converted or continued; and (z) if such interest conversion or continuation involves the conversion into or continuation as SOFR Loans, the duration of the Interest Period for each such SOFR Loan. If any Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation requests a conversion into or continuation as SOFR Loans but does not specify an Interest Period for such SOFR Loans, the Borrower shall be deemed to have selected an Interest Period of one month's duration. Upon receipt of any such Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation, the Administrative Agent shall promptly notify each Bank thereof. Each Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation shall be irrevocable and binding on the Borrower.

(d) If the Borrower shall fail to deliver to the Administrative Agent a Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation with respect to any Borrowing of SOFR Loans by 1:00 P.M. (New York City time) on the third Business Day prior to the last day of the Interest Period applicable thereto in accordance with this Section 3.6, the Administrative Agent will forthwith so notify the Borrower and the Banks (provided that the failure to give such notice shall not affect the conversion referred to below) and, unless such Loans are repaid as provided herein, such Loans will automatically, on the last day of the then existing Interest Period therefor, convert into SOFR Loans with a one month Interest Period.

SECTION 3.7. Funding Losses Relating to SOFR Loans.

(a) The Borrower agrees, without duplication of any other provision under this Agreement, to indemnify each Bank and to hold each Bank harmless from any loss or expense that such Bank may sustain or incur as a consequence of (i) default by the Borrower in payment when due of the principal amount of or interest on any SOFR Loan other than on the last day of the Interest Period applicable thereto, (ii) default by the Borrower in making a borrowing of, conversion into or continuation of any SOFR Loan after the Borrower has given a notice requesting the same in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, (iii) default by the Borrower in making any prepayment of SOFR Loans after the Borrower has given a notice thereof in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement or (iv) the making of a prepayment of SOFR Loans or the conversion of SOFR Loans into ABR Loans, on a day that is not the last day of an Interest Period with respect thereto or a day that is not the scheduled maturity date with respect thereto, including in each case, any such loss or expense arising from the reemployment of funds obtained by such Bank or from fees payable to terminate the deposits from which such funds were obtained. The calculation of all amounts payable to a Bank under this Section 3.7(a) shall be made pursuant to the method described in Section 4.8(a), but in no event shall such

amounts payable with respect to any SOFR Loan exceed the amounts that would have been payable assuming such Bank had actually funded its relevant SOFR Loan through the purchase of a deposit bearing interest at the applicable Term SOFR rate in an amount equal to the amount of such SOFR Loan and having a maturity comparable to the Interest Period applicable to such SOFR Loan; provided that each Bank may fund each of its SOFR Loans in any manner it sees fit, and the foregoing assumption shall be utilized only for the calculation of amounts payable under this Section 3.7(a).

(b) The agreements in this Section 3.7 shall survive the termination of this Agreement and the payment of all amounts payable hereunder; provided, however, that in no event shall the Borrower be obligated to reimburse or compensate any Bank for amounts contemplated by this Section 3.7 for amounts accruing prior to the date that is 90 days prior to the date upon which such Bank requests in writing such reimbursement or compensation from the Borrower.

SECTION 3.8. Change in Legality.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, if any Bank shall notify the Administrative Agent that it has determined in good faith that the introduction of or any change in or in the interpretation or application of any law or regulation by any Governmental Authority (in each case occurring after the date of this Agreement) makes it unlawful, or any central bank or other Governmental Authority asserts after the date of this Agreement that it is unlawful, for any Bank or its applicable lending office to perform its obligations hereunder to make SOFR Loans or to fund or maintain SOFR Loans hereunder, (i) the obligation of such Bank to make, or to convert Loans into, or to continue SOFR Loans as, SOFR Loans shall be suspended until the Administrative Agent shall notify the Borrower that the circumstances causing such suspension no longer exist; (ii) the Borrower shall, at its option, either prepay in full all SOFR Loans of such Bank then outstanding, or convert all such Loans to ABR Loans, on the respective last days of the then current Interest Periods with respect to such Loans (or within such earlier period as required by law), accompanied, in the case of any prepayments, by interest accrued thereon and any amounts payable under Section 3.7(a). Each Bank agrees that it will use reasonable efforts to designate a different lending office for the SOFR Loans due to such Bank that are affected by this Section 3.8, if such designation will avoid the illegality described in this Section 3.8 so long as such designation will not be disadvantageous to such Bank as determined by such Bank in its sole discretion acting in good faith.

(b) For purposes of this Section 3.8, a notice to the Borrower (with a copy to the Administrative Agent) by any Bank pursuant to paragraph (a) above shall be effective on the date of receipt thereof by the Borrower.

SECTION 3.9. Benchmark Replacement Setting.

(a) Benchmark Replacement. (i) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein or in any other Loan Document, if a Benchmark Transition Event and its related Benchmark Replacement Date have occurred prior to any setting of the then-current Benchmark, then (x) if a Benchmark Replacement is determined in accordance with clause (a) of the definition of "Benchmark Replacement" for such Benchmark Replacement Date, such Benchmark Replacement will replace such Benchmark for all purposes hereunder and under any Loan

Document in respect of such Benchmark setting and subsequent Benchmark settings without any amendment to, or further action or consent of any other party to, this Agreement or any other Loan Document and (y) if a Benchmark Replacement is determined in accordance with clause (b) of the definition of "Benchmark Replacement" for such Benchmark Replacement Date, such Benchmark Replacement will replace such Benchmark for all purposes hereunder and under any Loan Document in respect of any Benchmark setting at or after 5:00 p.m. (New York City time) on the fifth (5th) Business Day after the date notice of such Benchmark Replacement is provided to the Banks without any amendment to, or further action or consent of any other party to, this Agreement or any other Loan Document so long as the Administrative Agent has not received, by such time, written notice of objection to such Benchmark Replacement from Banks comprising the Majority Banks. If the Benchmark Replacement is Daily Simple SOFR, all interest payments will be payable on a quarterly basis; and (ii) no Swap Agreement shall be deemed to be a "Loan Document" for purposes of this Section 3.9.

(b) Benchmark Replacement Conforming Changes. In connection with the use, administration, adoption or implementation of a Benchmark Replacement, the Administrative Agent will have the right to make Conforming Changes from time to time and, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein or in any other Loan Document, any amendments implementing such Conforming Changes will become effective without any further action or consent of any other party to this Agreement or any other Loan Document.

(c) Notices; Standards for Decisions and Determinations. The Administrative Agent will promptly notify the Borrower and the Banks of (i) the implementation of any Benchmark Replacement and (ii) the effectiveness of any Conforming Changes in connection with the use, administration, adoption or implementation of a Benchmark Replacement. The Administrative Agent will notify the Borrower of (x) the removal or reinstatement of any tenor of a Benchmark pursuant to Section 3.9(d) and (y) the commencement of any Benchmark Unavailability Period. Any determination, decision or election that may be made by the Administrative Agent or, if applicable, any Bank (or group of Banks) pursuant to this Section 3.9, including any determination with respect to a tenor, rate or adjustment or of the occurrence or non-occurrence of an event, circumstance or date and any decision to take or refrain from taking any action or any selection, will be conclusive and binding absent manifest error and may be made in its or their reasonable discretion and without consent from any other party to this Agreement or any other Loan Document, except, in each case, as expressly required pursuant to this Section 3.9.

(d) Unavailability of Tenor of Benchmark. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein or in any other Loan Document, at any time (including in connection with the implementation of a Benchmark Replacement), (i) if the then-current Benchmark is a term rate (including the Term SOFR Reference Rate) and either (A) any tenor for such Benchmark is not displayed on a screen or other information service that publishes such rate from time to time as selected by the Administrative Agent in its reasonable discretion or (B) the regulatory supervisor for the administrator of such Benchmark has provided a public statement or publication of information announcing that any tenor for such Benchmark is not or will not be representative, then the Administrative Agent may modify the definition of "Interest Period" (or any similar or analogous definition) for any Benchmark settings at or after such time to remove such unavailable or non-representative tenor and (ii) if a tenor that was removed pursuant to clause (i) above either (A) is subsequently displayed on a screen or information service for a Benchmark

(including a Benchmark Replacement) or (B) is not, or is no longer, subject to an announcement that it is not or will not be representative for a Benchmark (including a Benchmark Replacement), then the Administrative Agent may modify the definition of "Interest Period" (or any similar or analogous definition) for all Benchmark settings at or after such time to reinstate such previously removed tenor.

(e) Benchmark Unavailability Period. Upon the Borrower's receipt of notice of the commencement of a Benchmark Unavailability Period, (i) the Borrower may revoke any pending request for a SOFR Borrowing of, conversion to or continuation of SOFR Loans to be made, converted or continued during any Benchmark Unavailability Period and, failing that, the Borrower will be deemed to have converted any such request into a request for a Borrowing of or conversion to ABR Loans and (ii) any outstanding affected SOFR Loans will be deemed to have been converted to ABR Loans at the end of the applicable Interest Period. During a Benchmark Unavailability Period or at any time that a tenor for the then-current Benchmark is not an Available Tenor, the component of Alternate Base Rate based upon the then-current Benchmark or such tenor for such Benchmark, as applicable, will not be used in any determination of Alternate Base Rate.

ARTICLE IV

INCREASED COSTS, TAXES, PAYMENTS AND PREPAYMENTS

SECTION 4.1. Increased Costs; Capital Adequacy.

(a) If, after the date of this Agreement, the adoption of or any change in any law or regulation or in the interpretation or application thereof by any Governmental Authority or compliance by any Bank with any request or directive (whether or not having the force of law) from any central bank or other Governmental Authority made subsequent to the date of this Agreement (provided that the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Basel III and all requests, rules, guidelines or directives under, or issued in connection with, the foregoing shall be deemed for all purposes of this Section 4.1 to be a change in Requirements of Law, regardless of the date enacted, adopted or issued):

(i) shall (A) subject any Bank to any Taxes with respect to this Agreement, or (B) change the basis of taxation of payments to such Bank in respect thereof (except, in each case of (A) and (B), for Indemnified Taxes, Connection Income Taxes and Taxes described in clauses (ii) through (v) of the definition of Excluded Taxes);

(ii) shall impose, modify or hold applicable any reserve, special deposit, compulsory loan or similar requirement against assets held by, deposits or other liabilities in or for the account of, advances, loans or other extensions of credit by, or any other acquisition of funds by, any office of such Bank that is not otherwise included in the determination of the applicable Term SOFR rate hereunder (except for amounts covered by any other Section hereof); or

(iii) shall impose on such Bank any other condition;

and the result of any of the foregoing is to increase the actual cost to such Bank, by an amount that such Bank deems to be material, of making, converting into, continuing or maintaining SOFR Loans or to reduce any amount receivable hereunder in respect thereof, then, in any such case, the Borrower shall promptly pay such Bank, upon its demand in the manner set forth in Section 4.8(b), any additional amounts, computed by such Bank in accordance with Section 4.8(a), necessary to compensate such Bank for such actual increased cost or reduced amount receivable that is attributable to Loans (to the extent that such Bank has not already been compensated or reimbursed for such amounts pursuant to any other provision of this Agreement). If any Bank becomes entitled to claim any additional amounts pursuant to this Section 4.1(a) from the Borrower, it shall promptly notify the Borrower, through the Administrative Agent, of the event by reason of which it has become so entitled in the manner set forth in Section 4.8(b).

(b) If any Bank determines in good faith that the introduction of or any change in or in the interpretation or application by any Governmental Authority of any law or regulation regarding capital adequacy or liquidity after the date of this Agreement or compliance by such Bank or any corporation controlling such Bank with any law or regulation or any guideline or request from any central bank or other Governmental Authority (whether or not having the force of law) made or issued after the date of this Agreement does or shall have the effect, as a result of such Bank's obligations under this Agreement, of reducing the rate of return on such Bank's or such corporation's capital to a level below that which such Bank or such corporation could have achieved but for such change or compliance (taking into consideration such Bank's or such corporation's policies with respect to capital adequacy or liquidity) by an amount deemed by such Bank to be material, the Borrower shall pay to the Administrative Agent for the account of such Bank, from time to time as specified by such Bank in the manner set forth in Section 4.8(b), additional amounts, computed by such Bank in accordance with Section 4.8(a), sufficient to compensate such Bank or such corporation in the light of such circumstances, to the extent that such Bank reasonably determines such reduction in rate of return is allocable to the existence of such Bank's obligations hereunder.

(c) The agreements contained in this Section 4.1 shall survive the termination of this Agreement and the payment of all amounts payable hereunder; provided, however, that in no event shall the Borrower be obligated to reimburse or compensate any Bank for amounts contemplated by this Section 4.1 for any period prior to the date that is 90 days prior to the date upon which such Bank requests in writing such reimbursement or compensation from the Borrower; provided that, to the extent that the adoption of or any change in any law or regulation or in the interpretation or application thereof gives rise to any amount(s) contemplated by this Section 4.1 on a retroactive basis, then the 90-day period referred to in the preceding proviso shall be extended to include the period of retroactive effect thereof.

SECTION 4.2. Pro Rata Treatment and Payments and Computations.

(a) Other than payments made in accordance with the express terms of this Agreement that are not required or permitted to be pro rata, each Borrowing of Loans by the Borrower from the Banks hereunder and any prepayment on account of principal and interest on the Loans shall be made pro rata according to the respective Loan Percentages of the Banks.

(b) The Borrower shall make each payment (including each prepayment) hereunder, whether on account of principal, interest, fees or otherwise, without setoff or counterclaim (except as otherwise provided in Section 4.3), not later than 12:00 Noon (New York City time) on the day when due in Dollars to the Administrative Agent at the Funding Office in immediately available funds. The Administrative Agent will promptly thereafter cause to be distributed like funds relating to the payment of principal, interest or fees (to the extent received by the Administrative Agent) ratably to the Banks according to the amounts of their respective Loans in respect of which such payment is made, and like funds relating to the payment of any other amount payable to any Bank (to the extent received by the Administrative Agent) to such Bank, in each case to be applied in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

(c) Whenever any payment hereunder or under the Notes shall be stated to be due on a day other than a Business Day, such payment shall be made on the next succeeding Business Day, and such extension of time shall in such case be included in the computation of payment of interest or fees, as the case may be; provided, however, if such extension would cause payment of interest on or principal of SOFR Loans to be made in the next following calendar month, such payment shall be made on the next preceding Business Day.

(d) Unless the Administrative Agent shall have received notice from the Borrower prior to the date on which any payment is due to the Banks hereunder that the Borrower will not make such payment in full, the Administrative Agent may assume that the Borrower has made such payment in full to the Administrative Agent on such date and the Administrative Agent may, in reliance upon such assumption, cause to be distributed to each Bank on such due date an amount equal to the amount then due such Bank. If and to the extent the Borrower shall not have so made such payment in full to the Administrative Agent, each Bank shall pay to the Administrative Agent on demand an amount equal to the product of (i) the daily average Federal Funds Effective Rate during such period, times (ii) the amount of such Bank's Loan Percentage of such payment, times (iii) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days that elapse from and including the date such amount is distributed to such Bank to the date on which such Bank's Loan Percentage of such payment shall have become immediately available to the Administrative Agent and the denominator of which is 360.

(e) If any Bank shall fail to make any payment required to be made by it pursuant to Section 9.7, then the Administrative Agent may, in its discretion and notwithstanding any contrary provision hereof, (i) apply any amounts thereafter received by the Administrative Agent for the account of such Bank for the benefit of the Administrative Agent to satisfy such Bank's obligations to it under such Section until all such unsatisfied obligations are fully paid, and/or (ii) hold any such amounts in a segregated account as cash collateral for, and application to, any future funding obligations of such Bank under any such Section, in the case of each of clauses (i) and (ii) above, in any order as determined by the Administrative Agent in its discretion.

SECTION 4.3. Taxes.

(a) Except as otherwise required by any Requirement of Law, any and all payments by or on behalf of the Borrower hereunder or under any other Loan Document shall be made free and clear of and without deduction or withholding for or on account of any and all present or future taxes, levies, imposts, duties, charges, fees, deductions or withholdings, and all interest,

penalties and additions to tax with respect thereto, in each case, now or hereafter imposed, levied, collected, withheld or assessed by any Governmental Authority ("Taxes"). If the Borrower shall be required by law to deduct or withhold any Taxes from or in respect of any sum payable hereunder or under any other Loan Document (as determined in the good faith discretion of the applicable withholding agent), (i) to the extent such Taxes are Indemnified Taxes, the sum payable by the Borrower to any Bank or the Administrative Agent shall be increased as necessary so that after making all required deductions (including deductions applicable to additional sums payable under this Section 4.3) the Bank or the Administrative Agent (as the case may be) receives an amount equal to the sum it would have received had no such deductions for Indemnified Taxes been made, (ii) the Borrower shall be entitled to make such deductions, and (iii) the Borrower shall pay the full amount deducted to the relevant Governmental Authority in accordance with applicable law. "Excluded Taxes" means in the case of each Bank, the Administrative Agent or any other recipient of any payment to be made by, on behalf of or on account of any obligation of the Borrower hereunder or under any other Loan Document, (i) net income Taxes, branch profits Taxes and franchise Taxes imposed on it by (A) the United States of America or (B) any jurisdiction under the laws of which such recipient is organized, or in which its principal office is located (or, in the case of any Bank, in which its applicable lending office is located), or imposed as a result of a present or former connection between it and the jurisdiction (or political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein) imposing such Tax (other than a connection arising solely from such recipient having executed, delivered or performed its obligations or received a payment under, or enforced, this Agreement or any other Loan Document), (ii) in the case of a Bank, any U.S. Federal withholding Taxes resulting from any Requirement of Law in effect (A) on the date such Bank becomes a party to this Agreement (other than pursuant to an assignment request by the Borrower under Section 4.7(b)), (B) on the date on which such recipient designates a new lending office, or (C) where such recipient is a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, on the date on which such recipient becomes a party hereto or, solely with respect to any U.S. Federal withholding Taxes attributable to the affected partner, the date on which the affected partner becomes a partner of such recipient, except in each case pursuant to this clause (ii), to the extent that amounts with respect to such Taxes were payable either (x) to such recipient's assignor immediately before such recipient became a recipient hereunder, (y) to such recipient immediately before it designated a new lending office, or (z) to such recipient immediately before the affected partner became a partner of such recipient, (iii) United States backup withholding Taxes, (iv) Taxes attributable to its failure to comply with Section 4.3(e) or Section 4.3(f), and (v) any U.S. withholding Taxes imposed under FATCA. "Indemnified Taxes" means (i) Taxes other than Excluded Taxes imposed on or with respect to any payment made by or on account of any obligation of the Borrower under any Loan Document and (ii) to the extent not otherwise described in clause (i), Other Taxes. Whenever any Taxes or Other Taxes are paid by the Borrower pursuant to clause (iii) of the preceding sentence or Section 4.3(b), the Borrower shall send to the Administrative Agent for the account of the relevant Bank or Administrative Agent, as the case may be, either (A) official tax receipts or notarized copies of such receipts evidencing such payment within thirty (30) days of receiving such receipts or (B) if Borrower cannot comply with (A), as reasonably promptly after payment thereof, a certificate executed by a Responsible Officer of the Borrower confirming that such Taxes or Other Taxes have been paid, together with evidence of such payment.

(b) In addition, the Borrower agrees to pay, in accordance with applicable law, any present or future Other Taxes for which Borrower has not otherwise indemnified, compensated or reimbursed, or made payment on behalf of or with respect to, a Bank or the Administrative Agent (as the case may be) under this Agreement or any Loan Document. "Other Taxes" means (A) stamp or documentary Taxes or (B) any other excise or property Taxes, in each case of (A) and (B), that arise from any payment made hereunder or under any Note or from the execution, delivery, registration or enforcement of or otherwise with respect to, this Agreement, any other Loan Document, or the Loans, excluding all such Taxes that are (other than Taxes resulting from an assignment requested by the Borrower under Section 4.7(b)) (i) imposed solely as the result of an assignment by a Bank of its interests, rights or benefits hereunder or under any other Loan Document and (ii) Other Connection Taxes.

(c) The Borrower will indemnify each Bank and the Administrative Agent for the full amount of Indemnified Taxes (including any Indemnified Taxes imposed by any jurisdiction on amounts payable under this Section 4.3) paid by such Bank or the Administrative Agent (as the case may be) and any reasonable expenses arising therefrom or with respect thereto, whether or not such Indemnified Taxes were correctly or legally imposed or asserted by the relevant Governmental Authority.

(d) Each Bank shall indemnify the Administrative Agent for (i) the full amount of any Indemnified Taxes that are attributable to such Bank and that are payable or paid by the Administrative Agent, together with all reasonable costs and expenses arising therefrom or with respect thereto, as determined by the Administrative Agent in good faith, (ii) any Taxes attributable to such Bank's failure to comply with the provisions of Section 10.06(b) relating to the maintenance of a Participant Register and (iii) any Excluded Taxes attributable to such Bank, in each case, that are payable or paid by the Administrative Agent in connection with any Loan Document, and any reasonable expenses arising therefrom or with respect thereto, whether or not such Taxes were correctly or legally imposed or asserted by the relevant Governmental Authority. A certificate as to the amount of such payment or liability delivered to any Bank by the Administrative Agent shall be conclusive absent manifest error. Each Bank hereby authorizes the Administrative Agent to set off and apply any and all amounts at any time owing to such Bank under any Loan Document or otherwise payable by the Administrative Agent to the Bank from any other source against any amount due to the Administrative Agent under this paragraph (d).

(e)

(i) Each Bank that is a "United States person" as defined in Section 7701(a)(30) of the Code shall deliver to the Borrower and the Administrative Agent two valid, original, properly completed and duly executed IRS Forms W-9 (or any successor form) certifying that such Bank is exempt from U.S. federal withholding tax.

(ii) Each Bank (or Transferee, if applicable) that is not a "United States person" as defined in Section 7701(a)(30) of the Code (a "Non-U.S. Bank") shall deliver to the Borrower and the Administrative Agent (or, in the case of a Participant, to the Bank from which the related participation shall have been purchased) each of the following which is applicable: (A) two valid, original, properly completed and duly

executed IRS Forms W-8BEN, W-8BEN-E, W-8ECI, W-8EXP or W-8IMY, as applicable (together with any applicable underlying IRS forms or other applicable documentation) or any successor applicable form, as the case may be (subject to the remaining clauses hereof), (B) in the case of a Non-U.S. Bank claiming exemption from U.S. federal withholding tax under Section 871(h) or 881(c) of the Code with respect to payments of "portfolio interest," a statement substantially in the form of Exhibit F-2 or Exhibit F-4, as applicable, and the applicable IRS Form W-8, or any subsequent versions thereof or successors thereto, properly completed and duly executed by such Non-U.S. Bank claiming complete exemption from U.S. federal withholding tax on payments under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, (C) if such Non-U.S. Bank is claiming eligibility for benefits of an income tax treaty to which the United States is a party (x) with respect to payments of interest under any Loan Document, IRS Form W-8BEN, IRS Form W-8BEN-E, or any successor form thereto, establishing an exemption from, or reduction of, U.S. federal withholding tax pursuant to the "interest" article of such tax treaty, and (y) with respect to any other applicable payments under any Loan Document, an IRS Form W-8BEN, IRS Form W-8BEN-E, or any successor form thereto, establishing an exemption from, or reduction of, U.S. federal withholding tax pursuant to the "business profits" or "other income" article of such tax treaty, (D) if applicable, an IRS Form W-8ECI, or any successor form thereto, certifying that the payments received by such Bank are effectively connected with such Bank's conduct of a trade or business in the United States, (E) if such Bank is not the beneficial owner of payments made under any Loan Document (for example, where the Bank is a partnership or a Bank which has sold a participating interest in any Loan), an IRS Form W-8IMY, on behalf of itself (or if it is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, on behalf of its owner), or any successor form thereto, accompanied by IRS Form W-9, IRS Form W-8ECI, IRS Form W-8BEN, IRS Form W-8BEN-E, a statement substantially in the form of Exhibit G, and/or other certification documents from each beneficial owner, as applicable, or (F) any other form prescribed by applicable requirements of U.S. federal income tax law as a basis for claiming exemption from or a reduction in U.S. federal withholding tax properly completed and duly executed together with such supplementary documentation as may be prescribed by applicable Requirements of Law to permit the Borrower and the Administrative Agent to determine the withholding or deduction required to be made.

(iii) All such forms described in this Section 4.3(e) shall be delivered by each Bank on or before the date which it becomes a party to this Agreement (or, in the case of any Participant, on or before the date such Participant purchases the related participation) and from time to time thereafter upon the request of the Borrower or the Administrative Agent. In addition, each Non-U.S. Bank also agrees to deliver to the Borrower and the Administrative Agent two further originals of the said Form W-8BEN, W-8BEN-E, W-8ECI, W-8EXP, or W-8IMY (together with any applicable underlying IRS forms or other applicable documentation) or any successor applicable form, as the case may be, on or before the date that any such form expires or becomes obsolete or after the occurrence of any event requiring a change in the most recent form or certification previously delivered by it to the Borrower. Each Bank shall promptly notify the Borrower and the Administrative Agent at any time it determines that it is no longer in a position to provide any previously delivered certificate to the Borrower (or any other form of certification adopted by the U.S. taxing authorities for such purpose). Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section 4.3(e), a Non-U.S. Bank shall not be required to deliver any form pursuant to this Section 4.3(e) that such Non-U.S. Bank is not legally able to deliver.

(iv) If a payment made to a Bank under any Loan Document would be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax imposed by FATCA if such Bank were to fail to comply with the applicable reporting requirements of FATCA (including those contained in Section 1471(b) or 1472(b) of the Code, as applicable), such Bank shall deliver to the Borrower and the Administrative Agent, at the time or times prescribed by law and at such time or times reasonably requested by the Borrower or the Administrative Agent, such documentation prescribed by applicable law (including as prescribed by Section 1471(b)(3)(C)(i) of the Code) and such additional documentation reasonably requested by the Borrower or the Administrative Agent as may be necessary for the Borrower or the Administrative Agent to comply with its obligations under FATCA, to determine that such Bank has or has not complied with such Bank's obligations under FATCA or to determine the amount to deduct and withhold from such payment. Solely for purposes of this Section 4.3(e), "FATCA" shall include any amendments made to FATCA after the date of this Agreement.

(v) For purposes of determining withholding Taxes imposed under FATCA, from and after the Closing Date, the Borrower and the Administrative Agent shall treat (and the Banks hereby authorize the Administrative Agent to treat) this Agreement as not qualifying as a "grandfathered obligation" within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.1471-2(b)(2)(i).

(vi) Each Bank agrees that if any form or certification it previously delivered expires or becomes obsolete or inaccurate in any respect, it shall update such form or certification or promptly notify the Borrower and the Administrative Agent in writing of its legal inability to do so.

(f) Without limiting Section 4.3(e), a Bank that is entitled to an exemption from or reduction of withholding tax under the law of the jurisdiction in which the Borrower is located, or any treaty to which such jurisdiction is a party, with respect to payments under this Agreement shall deliver to the Borrower (with a copy to the Administrative Agent), at the time or times prescribed by applicable law or reasonably requested by the Borrower or the Administrative Agent, such properly completed and executed documentation prescribed by applicable law as will permit such payments to be made without withholding or at a reduced rate if such Bank is legally entitled to complete, execute and deliver such documentation. In addition, each Bank, if reasonably requested by the Borrower or the Administrative Agent, shall deliver such other documentation prescribed by applicable law or reasonably requested by the Borrower or the Administrative Agent as will enable the Borrower or the Administrative Agent to determine whether or not such Bank is subject to backup withholding or information reporting requirements. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Bank shall not be required to provide such documentation (other than such documentation set forth in Section 4.3(e)) if in such Bank's reasonable judgment such completion, execution or submission would materially prejudice the legal or commercial position of such Bank.

(g) On or before the date the Administrative Agent becomes a party to this Agreement, it shall provide to the Borrower copies of the documentation prescribed in clause (i) or (ii) below, as applicable (together with all required attachments thereto): (i) IRS Form W-9 or any successor form thereto, or (ii) (A) IRS Form W-8ECI or any successor form thereto, and (B) with respect to payments received on account of any Bank, a U.S. branch withholding certificate on IRS Form W-8IMY or any successor form evidencing its agreement with the Borrower to be treated as a U.S. Person for U.S. federal withholding purposes. At any time thereafter, the Administrative Agent shall provide updated documentation previously provided (or a successor form thereto) when any documentation previously delivered has expired or become obsolete or invalid or otherwise upon the reasonable request of the Borrower. Nothing in this Section 4.3(g) shall be construed to require the Administrative Agent to make available its Tax returns (or any other information relating to its Taxes that it deems confidential) to the Borrower or any other Person.

(h) If the Administrative Agent or any Bank determines, in its sole discretion exercised in good faith, that it has received or utilized a refund of, or offset with respect to, those Taxes or Other Taxes paid by Borrower or as to which it has been indemnified, compensated or reimbursed by the Borrower (including by the payment of additional amounts pursuant to this Section 4.3), the Administrative Agent or such Bank shall within 20 Business Days after such refund or utilization pay to the Borrower the amount of such refund or utilization to the extent that the Borrower paid such Taxes or Other Taxes or indemnified, compensated or reimbursed the Administrative Agent or such Bank for such Taxes or Other Taxes pursuant to this Section 4.3, or paid such additional amounts, net of any out-of-pocket costs of the Administrative Agent or such Bank directly related to obtaining or utilizing such refund and without interest (other than any interest paid by the relevant Governmental Authority with respect to such refund); provided, that the Borrower, upon the request of the Administrative Agent or such Bank, agrees to repay the amount paid over to the Borrower pursuant to this Section 4.3(h) (plus any penalties, interest or other charges imposed by the relevant Governmental Authority) to the Administrative Agent or such Bank in the event the Administrative Agent or such Bank is required to repay such refund or utilized amount to such Governmental Authority. This paragraph shall not be construed to require the Administrative Agent or any Bank to make available its tax returns (or any other information relating to its taxes which it deems confidential) to the Borrower or any other Person. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this paragraph (h), in no event will the Administrative Agent or any Bank, as applicable, be required to pay any amount to the Borrower pursuant to this paragraph (h) the payment of which would place the Administrative Agent or such Bank in a less favorable net after-Tax position than it would have been in if the Tax subject to indemnification and giving rise to such refund had not been deducted, withheld or otherwise imposed and the indemnification payments or additional amounts with respect to such Tax had never been paid.

(i) The agreements in this Section 4.3 shall survive the termination of this Agreement and the payment of all amounts payable hereunder; provided, however, that nothing contained in this Section 4.3 shall require the Borrower to pay to any Bank or the Administrative Agent any duplicative amount (whether under this Section 4.3 or otherwise) in addition to that for which Borrower has paid or for which it has already reimbursed, indemnified or compensated, or made payment on behalf of or with respect to, any Bank or the Administrative Agent under any other provision of this Agreement.

SECTION 4.4. Sharing of Payments, Etc. If any Bank (a “Benefitted Bank”) shall at any time receive any payment (other than pursuant to Section 3.7, 4.1 or 4.3) of all or part of its Loans, or receive any collateral in respect thereof (whether voluntarily or involuntarily, by setoff, pursuant to events or proceedings of the nature referred to in Section 8.1(g) or 8.1(h), or otherwise), in a greater proportion than any such payment to or collateral received by any other Bank, if any, in respect of such other Bank’s Loans or interest thereon, such Benefitted Bank shall purchase for cash from the other Banks a participating interest in such portion of each such other Bank’s Loans owing to it or shall provide such other Banks with the benefits of any such collateral, or the proceeds thereof, as shall be necessary to cause such Benefitted Bank to share the excess payment or benefits of such collateral or proceeds ratably with each of the Banks; provided, however, that if all or any portion of such excess payment or benefits is thereafter recovered from such Benefitted Bank, such purchase shall be rescinded, and the purchase price and benefits returned, to the extent of such recovery, but without interest. The Borrower agrees that any Bank so purchasing a participation from another Bank pursuant to this Section 4.4 may, to the fullest extent permitted by law, exercise all its rights of payment (including the right of setoff) with respect to such participation as fully as if such Bank were the direct creditor of the Borrower in the amount of such participation.

SECTION 4.5. Optional Termination or Reduction of Commitments.

(a) Subject to Section 2.3, unless previously terminated, the Commitments of the Banks to make Loans shall terminate on the Commitment Termination Date.

(b) The Borrower shall have the right, without penalty or premium, upon at least three (3) Business Days’ irrevocable written notice to the Administrative Agent (which shall give prompt notice to each Bank), to terminate in whole the Commitments or permanently, from time to time, to reduce ratably in part the unused portion of the Commitments, provided that (i) each partial reduction shall be in the aggregate principal amount of \$5,000,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000,000 in excess thereof, and (ii) any notice of termination of the Commitments may state that such notice is conditioned upon the occurrence of any event or condition, in which case such notice may be revoked by the Borrower (by notice to the Administrative Agent on or prior to the specified date) if such condition is not satisfied. Each reduction of Commitments pursuant to this Section 4.5 shall be applied pro rata to the Commitments of each Bank. If at any time, including after giving effect to any reduction of Commitments pursuant to this Section 4.5, the Total Outstanding Extensions of Credit exceed the Total Commitments, the Borrower shall be obligated to prepay the Loans in the amount of such excess. For purposes of this Section 4.5(b), any Bank’s Commitment that was terminated as a result of the funding of the Loans related thereto (including in respect of Commitment Increases and Loan Increases) shall be included for purposes calculating such Bank’s Commitment and the Total Commitments.

SECTION 4.6. Voluntary Prepayments. The Borrower may, upon written notice delivered to the Administrative Agent (i) not later than 1:00 P.M. (New York City time) on the same Business Day, in the case of a prepayment of ABR Loans and (ii) no later than 1:00 P.M. (New York City time) two (2) Business Days before the date of prepayment (or such shorter or no notice as may be satisfactory to the Administrative Agent), in the case of a prepayment of SOFR Loans, stating the aggregate principal amount of the prepayment and the Loans to be prepaid, prepay the outstanding principal amounts of such Loans comprising part of the same

Borrowing in whole or ratably in part, together with accrued interest to the date of such prepayment on the principal amount prepaid to the extent required by Section 3.3; provided, however, that losses incurred by any Bank under Section 3.7 shall be payable with respect to each such prepayment in the manner set forth in Section 3.7. Any such notice provided pursuant to this Section 4.6 shall be irrevocable; provided that, a notice of prepayment conditioned upon the occurrence of any event or condition may be contingent upon the consummation of such event or condition and may be revoked by the Borrower in the event such contingency is not met. Partial prepayments pursuant to this Section 4.6 with respect to any Tranche of SOFR Loans shall be in an aggregate principal amount equal to the lesser of (a) \$5,000,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000,000 in excess thereof and (b) the aggregate principal amount of such Tranche of SOFR Loans then outstanding, as the case may be; provided that no partial prepayment of any Tranche of SOFR Loans may be made if, after giving effect thereto, Section 2.1(b) would be contravened. Partial prepayments with respect to ABR Loans shall be made in an aggregate principal amount equal to the lesser of (i) \$1,000,000 or an integral multiple of \$500,000 in excess thereof and (ii) the aggregate principal amount of ABR Loans then outstanding, as the case may be.

SECTION 4.7. Mitigation of Losses and Costs; Replacement of Banks.

(a) Any Bank claiming reimbursement from the Borrower under any of Sections 3.7, 4.1 and 4.3 hereof shall use reasonable efforts (including, if requested by the Borrower, reasonable efforts to designate a different lending office of such Bank) to mitigate the amount of such losses, costs, expenses and liabilities, if such efforts can be made and such mitigation can be accomplished without such Bank suffering (i) any economic disadvantage for which such Bank does not receive full indemnity from the Borrower under this Agreement or (ii) any legal or regulatory disadvantage.

(b) If (i) any Bank requests compensation under Section 4.1, or if the Borrower is required to pay any additional amount to any Bank or any Governmental Authority for the account of any Bank pursuant to Section 4.3, (ii) any Bank becomes a Defaulting Bank or (iii) any Bank refuses to consent to any proposed amendment, modification, waiver or consent with respect to any provision hereof that requires the unanimous approval of all Banks, or the approval of each of the Banks affected thereby (in each case in accordance with Section 10.1), and the consent of the Majority Banks shall have been obtained with respect to such amendment, modification, waiver or consent, then the Borrower may, at its sole expense and effort (including payment of any applicable processing and recordation fees), upon notice to such Bank and the Administrative Agent, require such Bank to assign and delegate, without recourse (in accordance with and subject to the restrictions contained in Section 10.6(c)), all its interests, rights and obligations under this Agreement to an assignee that shall assume such obligations (which assignee may be another Bank, if a Bank accepts such assignment); provided that (A) the Borrower shall have received (I) the prior written consent of the Administrative Agent with respect to any assignee that is not already a Bank hereunder, which consent shall not unreasonably be withheld, conditioned or delayed, (II) the consent of such assignee to the assignment and (III) in the case of clause (b)(iii) above, the consent of such assignee to the proposed amendment, modification, waiver or consent, (B) such Bank shall have received payment of all amounts owing to such Bank hereunder and under any other Loan Document (including any amounts arising under Section 3.7 as a consequence of such assignment), (C) in

the case of any such assignment resulting from a claim for compensation under Section 4.1 or payments required to be made pursuant to Section 4.3, such assignment will result in a reduction in such compensation or payments, (D) prior to any such assignment, such Bank shall have taken no action under Section 4.7(a) so as to eliminate the continued need for payment of amounts owing pursuant to Section 4.1 or Section 4.3 and (E) until such time as such assignment shall be consummated, the Borrower shall pay all additional amounts (if any) required pursuant to Section 4.1 or Section 4.3, as the case may be. A Bank shall not be required to make any such assignment and delegation if, prior thereto, as a result of a waiver by such Bank or otherwise, the circumstances entitling the Borrower to require such assignment and delegation cease to apply.

SECTION 4.8. Determination and Notice of Additional Costs and Other Amounts.

(a) In determining the amount of any claim for reimbursement or compensation under Sections 3.7 and 4.1, each Bank may use any reasonable averaging, attribution and allocation methods consistent with such methods customarily employed by such Bank in similar situations.

(b) Each Bank or, with respect to compensation claimed by it pursuant to Section 4.3, the Administrative Agent, as the case may be, will (i) use its best efforts to notify the Borrower through the Administrative Agent (in the case of each Bank) of any event occurring after the date of this Agreement promptly after the occurrence thereof and (ii) notify the Borrower through the Administrative Agent (in the case of each Bank) promptly after such Bank or the Administrative Agent, as the case may be, becomes aware of any event occurring after the date of this Agreement, in either case of (i) or (ii) if such event (for purposes of this Section 4.8(b), a "Triggering Event") will entitle such Bank or the Administrative Agent, as the case may be, to compensation pursuant to Section 3.7, 4.1 or 4.3, as the case may be. Each such notification of a Triggering Event shall be accompanied by a certificate of such Bank or the Administrative Agent, as the case may be, setting forth the calculations and justification in reasonable detail such amount or amounts as shall be necessary to compensate such Bank or the Administrative Agent, as the case may be, as specified in Section 3.7, 4.1 or 4.3, as the case may be, and certifying that such costs are generally being charged by such Bank to other similarly situated borrowers under similar credit facilities, which certificate shall be conclusive absent manifest error. Subject to Section 4.3(i), the Borrower shall pay to the Administrative Agent for the account of such Bank or to the Administrative Agent for its own account, as the case may be, the amount shown as due on any such certificate within ten Business Days after its receipt of the same.

**ARTICLE V
CONDITIONS OF LENDING**

SECTION 5.1. Closing Date. The obligations of the Banks to make Loans hereunder shall not become effective until the date on which each of the following conditions is satisfied (or waived in accordance with Section 10.1):

(a) The Administrative Agent (or its counsel) shall have received this Agreement duly executed by the Borrower and each other party hereto.

(b) The Administrative Agent (or its counsel) shall have received a certificate dated as of the Closing Date of the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Borrower certifying (i) the names and true signatures of the officers of the Borrower authorized to sign each Loan Document to which the Borrower is a party and the notices and other documents to be delivered by the Borrower pursuant to any such Loan Document; (ii) the articles of organization and operating agreement of the Borrower as in effect on the date of such certification and (iii) the resolutions of the sole manager of the Borrower approving and authorizing the execution, delivery and performance by the Borrower of each Loan Document to which it is a party and any Notes from time to time issued hereunder and authorizing the borrowings and other transactions contemplated hereunder.

(c) The Administrative Agent shall have received an executed legal opinion, dated the Closing Date, of (i) Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP, special counsel to the Borrower, and (ii) the general counsel or an associate general counsel of the Borrower. Each such legal opinion shall cover such matters incident to the transactions contemplated by the Loan Documents as the Administrative Agent may reasonably require and shall otherwise be in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to the Administrative Agent.

(d) The Administrative Agent (or its counsel) shall have received (i) a certificate dated as of a recent date on or prior to the Closing Date of the Secretary of State of the State of Texas as to the existence of the Borrower and (ii) a statement as of a recent date on or prior to the Closing Date of Franchise Tax Account Status obtained through the website of the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts of Texas indicating that the right of the Borrower to transact business in Texas is "active".

(e) All governmental and third-party approvals necessary in connection with the execution, delivery and performance by the Borrower of the Loan Documents to be entered into on the Closing Date shall have been obtained and be in full force and effect.

(f) The Administrative Agent shall have received the audited financial statements of the Borrower and its Consolidated Subsidiaries as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 and unaudited financial statements for each fiscal quarter thereafter for which financial statements are available.

(g) The Borrower shall have paid to the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger and the Banks all fees required to be paid to them by the Borrower on or before the Closing Date pursuant to the Fee Letter.

(h) To the extent requested at least ten (10) Business Days prior to the Closing Date, the Banks shall have received all documentation and other information required by bank regulatory authorities under applicable "know your customer", beneficial ownership and anti-money laundering rules and regulations, including the Patriot Act and the Beneficial Ownership Regulation, at least two (2) Business Days prior to the Closing Date.

(i) The representations and warranties of the Borrower contained in Section 6.1 of this Agreement shall be true and correct in all material respects (except to the extent that any representation and warranty is qualified by materiality in the text thereof, in which case such representation and warranty shall be true and correct in all respects) on and as of the Closing Date (except for those representations or warranties or parts thereof that, by their terms, expressly relate solely to a specific date, in which case such representations and warranties shall be true and correct in all material respects as of such specific date), before and after giving effect to the making of the Loans on the Closing Date as though made on and as of the Closing Date.

The Administrative Agent shall notify the Borrower and the Banks of the Closing Date, and such notice shall be conclusive and binding.

SECTION 5.2. Conditions Precedent to Each Credit Event. The obligation of each Bank to make a Loan on the occasion of any Borrowing is subject to the satisfaction of the following conditions precedent:

(a) On or prior to the date of the making of such extension of credit, the Administrative Agent shall have received a Notice of Borrowing as required by Section 2.2.

(b) The representations and warranties of the Borrower contained in Section 6.1 of this Agreement shall be true and correct in all material respects (except to the extent that any representation and warranty is qualified by materiality in the text thereof, in which case such representation and warranty shall be true and correct in all respects) on and as of the date of such extension of credit (except for those representations or warranties or parts thereof that, by their terms, expressly relate solely to a specific date, in which case such representations and warranties shall be true and correct in all material respects as of such specific date), before and after giving effect to such extension of credit as though made on and as of such date.

(c) At the time of and immediately after giving effect to such extension of credit, no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing.

Each Borrowing shall be deemed to constitute a representation and warranty by the Borrower on the date thereof as to the matters specified in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Section.

SECTION 5.3. Conditions Precedent to Each Increase of the Commitments. Each increase of the Commitments pursuant to Section 2.3 shall not become effective until the date on which each of the following conditions is satisfied:

(a) The representations and warranties of the Borrower contained in Section 6.1 of this Agreement shall be true and correct in all material respects (except to the extent that any representation and warranty is qualified by materiality in the text thereof, in which case such representation and warranty shall be true and correct in all respects) on and as of the date of such increase of the Commitments (except for those representations or warranties or parts thereof that, by their terms, expressly relate solely to a specific date, in which case such representations and warranties shall be true and correct in all material respects as of such specific date), before and after giving effect to such increase of the Commitments as though made on and as of such date.

(b) At the time of and immediately after giving effect to such increase of the Commitments, no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing.

ARTICLE VI
REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

SECTION 6.1. Representations and Warranties of the Borrower. The Borrower represents and warrants as follows:

(a) Organizational Status of the Borrower. The Borrower (i) is validly organized and existing as a limited liability company and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization; (ii) is duly authorized or qualified to do business in, and is in good standing in, each other jurisdiction in which the conduct of its business or the ownership or leasing of its Property requires it to be so authorized or qualified to do business, except where the failure to be so duly authorized or qualified or in good standing, individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect, and (iii) has the limited liability company power and authority to conduct its business, as presently conducted.

(b) Organizational Status of Significant Subsidiaries of the Borrower. Each Significant Subsidiary of the Borrower (i) is validly organized and existing and in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its organization and is duly authorized or qualified to do business in, and is in good standing in, each other jurisdiction in which the conduct of its business or the ownership or leasing of its Property requires it to be so authorized or qualified to do business, except where the failure to be so validly organized and existing or duly authorized or qualified or in good standing, individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect and (ii) has the corporate, partnership or other requisite power and authority to conduct its business, as presently conducted, except where the failure to have such power and authority, individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(c) Organizational Powers. The Borrower has the limited liability company power to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under this Agreement, any Notes and the other Loan Documents to which it is a party. This Agreement and each other Loan Document to which the Borrower is a party have been duly executed and delivered on behalf of the Borrower.

(d) Authorization, No Conflict, Etc. The Borrowings by the Borrower contemplated by this Agreement, the execution and delivery by the Borrower of this Agreement and the other Loan Documents to which it is a party and the performance by the Borrower of its obligations hereunder and thereunder have been duly authorized by all requisite limited liability company action on the part of the Borrower and do not and will not (i) violate any law or any order of any court or other Governmental Authority to which the Borrower is subject, (ii) violate the articles of organization or operating agreement (each as amended from time to time) of the Borrower, (iii) violate or result in a default under any indenture, loan agreement or other agreement to which the Borrower or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Borrower is a party or by which the Borrower or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Borrower, or any of their respective Property, is bound (except for such violations or defaults that, individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect) or (iv) result in or require the creation or imposition of any material Lien upon any of the Properties of the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary not permitted under this Agreement.

(e) Governmental Approvals and Consents. No authorization or approval or action by, and no notice to or filing with, any Governmental Authority is required for the due execution, delivery and performance by the Borrower of, or for the Borrowings under, this Agreement and the other Loan Documents to which it is a party, except (i) those that have been obtained or made and (ii) such matters relating to performance as would ordinarily be done in the ordinary course of business after the Closing Date.

(f) Obligations Binding. This Agreement and the other Loan Documents to which the Borrower is a party constitute the legal, valid and binding obligations of the Borrower, enforceable against the Borrower in accordance with their respective terms (assuming due and valid authorization, execution and delivery of this Agreement and such other Loan Documents by each party other than the Borrower), except as such enforceability may be (i) limited by the effect of any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or other similar laws relating to or affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally and (ii) subject to the effect of general principles of equity (regardless of whether such enforceability is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law).

(g) Use of Proceeds, Margin Stock. The proceeds of the Loans will be used by the Borrower for general limited liability company purposes. Neither the Borrower nor any Restricted Subsidiary of the Borrower is principally engaged in, or has as one of its important activities, the business of extending credit for the purpose of purchasing or carrying any Margin Stock, and no part of the proceeds of any Loan made to the Borrower will be used for any purpose that would violate the provisions of the margin regulations of the Board.

(h) Title to Properties. The issued and outstanding Capital Stock owned by the Borrower of each of its Significant Subsidiaries, whether such stock is owned directly or indirectly through one or more of its Subsidiaries, is owned free and clear of any Lien, except Liens permitted under this Agreement. In addition, each of the Borrower and each Significant Subsidiary has good title to, or valid leasehold interests in, all its real and personal property material to its business, except for defects in title and exceptions to leasehold interests that either individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect, and all such Properties are free and clear of any Lien except Liens permitted under this Agreement.

(i) Investment Company Act. Neither the Borrower nor any Restricted Subsidiary of the Borrower is an "investment company" as defined in, or otherwise subject to regulation under, the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

(j) Material Adverse Change. Since December 31, 2023, there has been no event, development or circumstance that, as of the Closing Date, has had, or would reasonably be expected to have, a Material Adverse Effect.

(k) Litigation. As of the Closing Date, there is no litigation, action, suit, investigation or other legal or governmental proceeding by or before any arbitrator or Governmental Authority pending against or, to the best knowledge of the Borrower, threatened in writing against the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries, at law or in equity, (i) relating to the transactions under this Agreement or under any other Loan Document or (ii) as to which there is a reasonable possibility of an adverse decision that would have a Material Adverse Effect.

(l) ERISA. There is no event or events, individually or in the aggregate, that could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect, arising out of or in connection with (i) any Reportable Event or the failure to satisfy the minimum funding standards (within the meaning of Section 412 of the Code or Section 302 of ERISA) with respect to any Plan that has occurred during the five-year period immediately preceding the date on which this representation is made or deemed made, (ii) any failure of a Plan to comply with the applicable provisions of ERISA and the Code, (iii) any termination of a Single Employer Plan, (iv) any complete or partial withdrawal by the Borrower or any Commonly Controlled Entity from any Multiemployer Plan, (v) any Lien in favor of the PBGC or any Plan that has arisen during the five-year period referred to in clause (i) above or (vi) a Multiemployer Plan being Insolvent.

(m) Financial Statements. The consolidated financial statements of the Borrower as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 filed with the SEC with the Borrower's 10-K for the period then ended, copies of which have been delivered to the Banks, present fairly in all material respects the consolidated financial condition and results of operations of the Borrower, its Consolidated Subsidiaries, the Securitization Subsidiaries and the Unrestricted Subsidiaries as of such date and for the period then ended, in conformity with, as applicable, GAAP and, except as otherwise stated therein, consistently applied (in the case of such unaudited statements, subject to year-end adjustments and the exclusion of detailed footnotes).

(n) Accuracy of Information. None of the documents or written information (excluding estimates, financial projections and forecasts) furnished to the Banks by the Borrower in connection with or pursuant to this Agreement or the other Loan Documents (collectively, the "Information"), contained, as of the date such Information was furnished (or, if such Information expressly related to a specific date, as of such specific date), any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state, as of the date such Information was furnished (or, if such Information expressly related to a specific date, as of such specific date), any material fact (other than industry-wide risks normally associated with the types of businesses conducted by the Borrower and its Subsidiaries) necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not materially misleading, as a whole. The estimates, financial projections and forecasts furnished to the Banks by the Borrower with respect to the transactions contemplated under this Agreement were prepared in good faith and on the basis of information and assumptions that the Borrower believed to be reasonable as of the date such information was prepared (it being recognized by the Banks that such estimates, financial projections and forecasts as they relate to future events are not to be viewed as fact and that actual results during the period or periods covered by such estimates, financial projections and forecasts may differ from the projected results set forth therein by a material amount).

(o) No Violation. The Borrower is not in violation of any order, writ, injunction or decree of any court or any order, regulation or demand of any Governmental Authority that, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably could be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(p) Subsidiaries. Schedule 6.1(p) attached hereto sets forth each Significant Subsidiary as of the date hereof. Except as disclosed on Schedule 6.1(p), as of the date hereof the Borrower owns, directly or indirectly through one or more of its Subsidiaries, all of the outstanding Capital Stock of each Significant Subsidiary, in each case free and clear of any Liens not permitted under this Agreement.

(q) Taxes. Each of the Borrower and its Subsidiaries has filed or caused to be filed all Federal, state and all other material Tax returns that are required to be filed by it and has paid or caused to be paid all Taxes shown to be due and payable on said returns or on any assessments made against it or any of its Property and all other Taxes, fees or other charges imposed on it or any of its Property by any Governmental Authority (other than any such Taxes, fees or other charges the amount or validity of which are currently being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings and with respect to which reserves in conformity with GAAP have been provided on the books of the Borrower or its Subsidiaries), except where the failure to do so could not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect; no Tax Lien has been filed, and to the knowledge of the Borrower, no claim is being asserted, with respect to any such Tax, fee or other charges (other than any Liens or claims that could not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect).

(r) Anti-Corruption Laws and Sanctions. The Borrower has implemented and maintains in effect policies and procedures designed to ensure compliance by the Borrower, its Subsidiaries and their respective directors, officers, employees and agents with Anti-Corruption Laws and applicable Sanctions, and the Borrower, its Subsidiaries and, to the knowledge of the Borrower, their respective officers, employees, directors and agents, are in compliance with Anti-Corruption Laws and applicable Sanctions in all material respects. None of (a) the Borrower, any Subsidiary or, to the knowledge of the Borrower, any of their respective directors, officers or employees, or (b) to the knowledge of the Borrower, any agent of the Borrower or any Subsidiary that will act in any capacity in connection with or benefit from the credit facility established hereby, is a Sanctioned Person. Assuming that no Bank is a Sanctioned Person, no Borrowing, or use of proceeds thereof, or other transaction contemplated by this Agreement will result in a violation by the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries of any applicable Anti-Corruption Law or applicable Sanctions.

(s) The information included in any Beneficial Ownership Certification provided to any Bank in connection with this Agreement is true and correct in all respects as of the date delivered.

ARTICLE VII

AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE COVENANTS

SECTION 7.1. Affirmative Covenants. The Borrower covenants that, so long as any amount is owing to the Banks hereunder or under any other Loan Document to which it is a party (other than indemnities and other contingent obligations not then due and payable and as to which no claim has been made) or any Bank shall have any Commitment outstanding under this Agreement:

(a) Delivery of Financial Statements, Notices and Certificates. The Borrower shall deliver to the Administrative Agent (for distribution to the Banks) the following:

(i) as soon as practicable and in any event within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year of the Borrower (beginning with the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024), a consolidated balance sheet of the Borrower and its Consolidated Subsidiaries, Securitization Subsidiaries and Unrestricted Subsidiaries as of the end of such fiscal year and the related statements of consolidated income, members' equity and cash flows prepared in conformity with GAAP consistently applied, setting forth in comparative form the figures for the previous fiscal year, together with a report thereon by independent certified public accountants of nationally recognized standing selected by the Borrower (which requirement may be satisfied by the Borrower's filing of its Annual Report on Form 10-K with respect to such fiscal year with the SEC);

(ii) as soon as practicable and in any event within 55 days after the end of each of the first three quarters of each fiscal year of the Borrower (beginning with the quarter ending June 30, 2024), unaudited consolidated financial statements of the Borrower and its Consolidated Subsidiaries, Securitization Subsidiaries and Unrestricted Subsidiaries, consisting of at least a consolidated balance sheet as of the end of such fiscal quarter and the related statements of consolidated income, members' equity and cash flows for such fiscal quarter and for the period from the beginning of such fiscal year to the end of such fiscal quarter (which requirement may be satisfied by the Borrower's filing of its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with respect to such fiscal quarter with the SEC); such financial statements shall be accompanied by a certificate of a Responsible Officer of the Borrower to the effect that such unaudited financial statements present fairly in all material respects the consolidated financial condition and results of operations of the Borrower and its Consolidated Subsidiaries, Securitization Subsidiaries and Unrestricted Subsidiaries as of such date and for the period then ending, and have been prepared in conformity with GAAP in a manner consistent with the financial statements referred to in paragraph (a)(i) above (subject to year-end adjustments and exclusion of detailed footnotes);

(iii) with each set of financial statements to be delivered pursuant to Sections 7.1(a)(i) and (ii) above, a certificate in a form reasonably satisfactory to the Administrative Agent, signed by a Responsible Officer of the Borrower, (A) confirming compliance with Section 7.2(a) and setting out in reasonable detail the calculations necessary to demonstrate such compliance as at the date of the most recent balance sheet included in such financial statements and (B) stating that no Default or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing as of the date of such certificate or, if there is any Default or Event of Default, specifying the details thereof and any action taken or proposed to be taken with respect thereto;

(iv) within ten days of the filing thereof, copies of all periodic reports (other than (x) reports on Form 11-K or any successor form, (y) Current Reports on Form 8-K that contain no information other than exhibits filed therewith and (z) reports on Form 10-Q or 10-K (or any successor forms) under the Exchange Act (in each case other than exhibits thereto and documents incorporated by reference therein)) filed by the Borrower with the SEC;

(v) promptly, and in any event within seven (7) Business Days after a Responsible Officer of the Borrower becomes aware of the occurrence thereof, written notice of (A) any Default or Event of Default; (B)(I) the institution of any litigation, action, suit or other legal or governmental proceeding involving the Borrower or any Restricted Subsidiary of the Borrower as to which there is a reasonable possibility of an adverse decision that, if adversely determined, would have a Material Adverse Effect, (II) any adverse final determination in the True-Up Litigation that would have a material adverse effect on the ability of the Borrower to perform its obligations under the Loan Documents on a timely basis or (III) any other final adverse determination in any litigation, action, suit or other legal or governmental proceeding involving the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary of the Borrower that would have a Material Adverse Effect; or (C) the existence of an event or events, individually or in the aggregate, that could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect, arising out of or in connection with (I) any Reportable Event with respect to any Plan, (II) the failure to make any required contribution to a Plan, (III) the creation of any Lien in favor of the PBGC or a Plan, (IV) any withdrawal from, or the termination or Insolvency of, any Multiemployer Plan or (V) the institution of proceedings or the taking of any other action by the PBGC or the Borrower or any Commonly Controlled Entity or any Multiemployer Plan with respect to the withdrawal from, or the termination or Insolvency of, any Plan;

(vi) with each delivery of annual financial statements pursuant to Section 7.1(a)(i), a certificate signed by a Responsible Officer of the Borrower identifying those Subsidiaries of the Borrower which, determined as of the date of such financial statements, are Significant Subsidiaries;

(vii) promptly after any request therefor, such other information relating to the Borrower or its business, properties, condition and operations as the Administrative Agent (or any Bank through the Administrative Agent) may reasonably request;

(viii) promptly after any reasonable request therefor by the Administrative Agent or any Bank, all information and documentation (including, without limitation, a Beneficial Ownership Certification) in order to comply with the Administrative Agent's or any Bank's ongoing obligations under applicable "know your customer" and anti-money laundering rules and regulations, including the Patriot Act, and the Beneficial Ownership Regulation; and

(ix) prompt written notice of any change in the information provided in any Beneficial Ownership Certification delivered to the Administrative Agent or any Bank that would result in a change to the list of beneficial owners identified in such Beneficial Ownership Certification.

Information or notices required to be delivered pursuant to the foregoing Sections 7.1(a)(i), (ii), (iv) and (v)(B) shall be deemed to have been delivered on the date on which the Borrower posts or publicly discloses such information or events (in the case of Section 7.1(a)(v)(B), regardless

of whether the Borrower expressly states there could or would be a Material Adverse Effect; provided, that the Borrower shall subsequently provide the same to the Administrative Agent on (x) the SEC website on the Internet at sec.gov or (y) another website identified in a notice delivered to the Administrative Agent and such website shall be accessible by the Banks without charge; provided that such notice may be included in a certificate delivered pursuant to Section 7.1(a)(iii).

(b) Use of Proceeds.

(i) The Borrower will use the proceeds of the Loans only for the purposes set forth in Section 6.1(g), and it will not use the proceeds of any Loan for any purpose that would violate the provisions of the margin regulations of the Board. The Borrower will not, and will not permit any of its Subsidiaries to, engage principally, or as one of its important activities, in the business of extending credit for the purpose of purchasing or carrying, within the meaning of Regulation U, any Margin Stock.

(ii) The Borrower will not request any Borrowing, and the Borrower shall not use, and shall procure that its Subsidiaries and, to their knowledge, their respective agents (in their capacity as agents, respectively, of the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries), shall not use the proceeds of any Borrowing (A) to finance an offer, payment, promise to pay, or authorization of the payment or giving of money, or anything else of value, to any Person in violation by the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries of any Anti-Corruption Laws, (B) for the purpose of funding, financing or facilitating any activities, business or transaction by the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries with any Sanctioned Person, or in any Sanctioned Country, or (C) that would result in the violation of any Sanctions by any party hereto.

(c) Existence; Laws. The Borrower will, and will cause each Significant Subsidiary to, do or cause to be done all things necessary to preserve, renew and keep in full force and effect its legal existence and all rights, licenses, permits and franchises; provided that the foregoing shall not prohibit any merger, consolidation, liquidation or dissolution otherwise permitted under this Agreement; and provided further that neither the Borrower nor any Significant Subsidiary shall be required to preserve or maintain any rights, licenses, permits or franchises if the failure to maintain and preserve the same would not reasonably be expected, individually or in the aggregate, to result in a Material Adverse Effect. The Borrower will, and will cause each of its Significant Subsidiaries to, comply with all laws and regulations applicable to it, except where the failure to do so, individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(d) Maintenance of Properties. The Borrower will, and will cause each Significant Subsidiary to, preserve and maintain all of its Property that is material to the conduct of the business of the Borrower and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, provided, however, that nothing in this Section 7.1(d) shall prevent the Borrower or any of its Significant Subsidiaries from (i) selling, abandoning or otherwise disposing of any Properties (including the Capital Stock of any Subsidiary of the Borrower that is not a Significant Subsidiary or any Person that is not a Subsidiary) if (x) the retention of such Properties in the good faith judgment of the Borrower or such Significant Subsidiary is inadvisable or unnecessary to the business of the Borrower and its

Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or (y) the failure to preserve and maintain such Properties would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect or (ii) engaging in any other transaction that is expressly permitted by the terms of any other provision of this Agreement.

(e) Maintenance of Business Line. The Borrower will maintain its fundamental business of providing services and products in the energy market.

(f) Books and Records; Access. The Borrower will, and will cause each Significant Subsidiary to, keep proper books of record and account in which complete and accurate entries, in all material respects, are made of its financial and business transactions to the extent required by GAAP. The Borrower will, and will cause each of its Significant Subsidiaries to, at any reasonable time and from time to time (but not to exceed two times in any calendar year unless a Default or an Event of Default exists), permit up to six representatives of the Banks designated by the Majority Banks, or representatives of the Administrative Agent, on not less than five Business Days' notice, to examine and make copies of and abstracts from the records and books of account of, and visit the properties of, the Borrower and each Significant Subsidiary and to discuss the general business affairs of the Borrower and each of its Significant Subsidiaries with their respective officers and independent certified public accountants (provided that, so long as no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing, the Borrower shall have the opportunity to be present at any such discussion with such independent certified public accountants); subject, however, in all cases to the imposition of such conditions as the Borrower and each of its Significant Subsidiaries shall deem necessary based on reasonable considerations of safety and security; provided, however, that neither the Borrower nor any of its Significant Subsidiaries shall be required to disclose to the Administrative Agent, any Bank or any agents or representatives thereof any information which is the subject of attorney-client privilege or attorney work-product privilege properly asserted by the applicable Person to prevent the loss of such privilege in connection with such information or which is prevented from disclosure pursuant to a confidentiality agreement with third parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, none of the conditions precedent to the exercise of the right of access described in the preceding sentence that relate to notice requirements or limitations on the Persons permitted to exercise such right shall apply at any time when a Default or an Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing.

(g) Insurance. The Borrower will, and will cause each Significant Subsidiary to, maintain insurance with responsible and reputable insurance companies or associations, or to the extent that the Borrower or such Significant Subsidiary deems it prudent to do so, through its own program of self-insurance, in such amounts and covering such risks as is usually carried by companies engaged in similar businesses, of comparable size and financial strength and with comparable risks.

SECTION 7.2. Negative Covenants. The Borrower covenants that, so long as any amount is owing to the Banks hereunder or under any other Loan Document to which it is a party (other than indemnities and other contingent obligations not then due and payable and as to which no claim has been made) or any Bank shall have any Commitment outstanding under this Agreement:

(a) Financial Covenant. The Borrower will not permit, as of the last day of any fiscal quarter, the ratio of Consolidated Indebtedness for Borrowed Money as of such date to Consolidated Capitalization as of such date to exceed 67.5%; provided, however, during each period after the occurrence of a Storm Certificate Effective Date until the applicable Other Covenant Trigger Date, the applicable ratio shall be 70%.

(b) Certain Liens. The Borrower will not, and will not permit any of its Significant Subsidiaries to, pledge, mortgage, hypothecate or grant a Lien upon, or permit any mortgage, pledge, security interest or other Lien upon, any Property of the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary of the Borrower; provided, however, that this restriction shall neither apply to nor prevent the creation or existence of:

(i) Permitted Liens;

(ii) any Lien in existence on the date hereof; provided that (A) no such Lien described in this clause (ii) encumbers any additional Property after the date hereof (other than repairs, renewals, replacements, additions, accessions, improvements and betterments to the Property originally subject to such Lien) and (B) the principal amount of Indebtedness of the Borrower and its Subsidiaries secured thereby is not increased after the date hereof (except that, if such Indebtedness is refinanced, refunded, renewed or extended after the Closing Date, the principal amount thereof may be increased by an amount necessary to pay all accrued and unpaid interest on such Indebtedness being refinanced, refunded, renewed or extended and any fees and expenses, including premiums, related to such refinancing, refunding, renewal or replacement);

(iii) Liens securing bonds issued after the date hereof pursuant to the CEHE Original Mortgage (to the extent the proceeds thereof are used to replace, refund or refinance first mortgage bonds outstanding on the date hereof) or the CEHE General Mortgage Indenture (or second or subordinated, as the case may be, Liens in lieu thereof);

(iv) Liens required to be granted pursuant to "equal and ratable" clauses existing on the date hereof under Contractual Obligations of the Borrower and its Significant Subsidiaries (and extensions and renewals thereof);

(v) Liens in favor of the Borrower or a Subsidiary securing intercompany obligations owing to the Borrower or its Subsidiaries;

(vi) Liens on fixed or capital assets and related inventory and intangible assets acquired, constructed, improved, altered or repaired by the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary; provided that (i) such Liens secure Indebtedness otherwise permitted by this Agreement, (ii) such Liens and the Indebtedness secured thereby are incurred prior to or within 365 days after such acquisition or the later of the completion of such construction, improvement, alteration or repair or the date of commercial operation of the assets constructed, improved, altered or repaired, (iii) the Indebtedness secured thereby does not exceed the cost of acquiring, constructing, improving, altering or repairing such fixed or capital assets, as the case may be, and (iv) such Lien shall not apply to any other property or assets of the Borrower or of its Significant Subsidiaries (other than repairs, renewals, replacements, additions, accessions, improvements and betterments thereto);

(vii) Liens on Property and repairs, renewals, replacements, additions, accessions, improvements and betterments thereto existing at the time such Property is acquired by the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary and not created in contemplation of such acquisition (or on repairs, renewals, replacements, additions, accessions and betterments thereto), and Liens on the Property of any Person at the time such Person becomes a Significant Subsidiary of the Borrower and not created in contemplation of such Person becoming a Significant Subsidiary of the Borrower (or on repairs, renewals, replacements, additions, accessions and betterments thereto);

(viii) rights reserved to or vested in any Governmental Authority by the terms of any right, power, franchise, grant, license or permit, or by any Requirements of Law, to terminate such right, power, franchise, grant, license or permit or to purchase, condemn, expropriate or recapture or to designate a purchaser of any of the Property of the Borrower or any of its Significant Subsidiaries;

(ix) rights reserved to or vested in (or exercised by) any Governmental Authority to control, regulate or use any Property of a Person or its activities, including zoning, planning and environmental laws and ordinances and municipal regulations;

(x) Liens on Property of the Borrower or any of its Significant Subsidiaries securing non-recourse Indebtedness of the Borrower or any such Significant Subsidiary;

(xi) Liens on the stock or assets of Securitization Subsidiaries;

(xii) any extension, renewal or refunding of any Lien permitted by clauses (i) through (xi) above on the same Property previously subject thereto; provided that no extension, renewal or refunding of any such Lien shall increase the principal amount of any Indebtedness secured thereby immediately prior to such extension, renewal or refunding, unless such Indebtedness is permitted under Section 7.2(a);

(xiii) Liens on cash collateral to secure obligations of the Borrower and its Significant Subsidiaries in respect of cash management arrangements with any Bank or Affiliate thereof; and

(xiv) Liens not otherwise permitted by this Section 7.2(b) securing Indebtedness and other obligations of the Borrower and its Significant Subsidiaries so long as the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Indebtedness and obligations secured thereby does not at any time exceed at the time of incurrence of such Indebtedness or obligations (including any such incurrence resulting from any extension, renewal or refunding of such Indebtedness or obligations), as to the Borrower and all of its Significant Subsidiaries, 12.5% of Net Tangible Assets.

(c) Consolidation, Merger or Disposal of Assets. The Borrower will not, and will not permit any Significant Subsidiary to, (i) merge into or consolidate with any other Person; (ii) liquidate, wind up or dissolve (or suffer any liquidation or dissolution); or (iii) sell, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its Properties to any Person; provided, however, that (A) the Borrower may merge into, or consolidate with, any Person if the Borrower is the surviving entity; (B) any Significant Subsidiary may consolidate with or merge into (1) the Borrower if the Borrower is the surviving entity or (2) any other Subsidiary of the Borrower if the surviving entity is such Significant Subsidiary or a Wholly-Owned Restricted Subsidiary; (C) any Significant Subsidiary may consolidate with or merge into any Person other than the Borrower or another Subsidiary of the Borrower if (1) such Significant Subsidiary is the surviving entity or (2) such other Person is the surviving entity and becomes a Wholly-Owned Restricted Subsidiary contemporaneously with such consolidation or merger; (D) any Significant Subsidiary may liquidate, wind up or dissolve if the Properties of such Significant Subsidiary are conveyed, transferred or distributed pursuant to such liquidation, winding up or dissolution to the Borrower or a Wholly-Owned Restricted Subsidiary; (E) any Significant Subsidiary may sell, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its Properties to the Borrower, to another Wholly-Owned Restricted Subsidiary or to a Person that becomes a Wholly-Owned Restricted Subsidiary contemporaneously with such sale, transfer, lease or other disposition; (F) the Borrower and any Significant Subsidiary may transfer assets in connection with the issuance of Securitization Securities; and (G) the Borrower and any Significant Subsidiary may enter into transactions permitted under Section 7.2(e); provided that (x) in each case, immediately before and after giving effect to any such merger or consolidation, dissolution or liquidation, or sale, transfer, lease or other disposition, no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing and (y) in the case of any transaction described in foregoing clauses (A) or (G) (excluding, in the case of clause (A), any transaction in which any Subsidiary of the Borrower merges into or consolidates with the Borrower), after giving effect to such transaction, the Borrower shall be in pro forma compliance with Section 7.2(a).

(d) Takeover Bids. The Borrower will not use the proceeds of any Loan made to it to participate in any unsolicited control bid for any other Person.

(e) Sale of Significant Subsidiary Stock. The Borrower will not, and will not permit any Significant Subsidiary to, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of any of the Capital Stock of any Significant Subsidiary. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of Section 7.2(c) or this Section 7.2(e), (1) the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary may sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of (i) any of the Capital Stock of any Significant Subsidiary to the Borrower or to a Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of the Borrower that constitutes a Significant Subsidiary after giving effect to such transaction and (ii) any of the Capital Stock of any Subsidiary that is not a Significant Subsidiary or any of the Capital Stock of a Person that is not a Subsidiary; (2) any Significant Subsidiary shall have the right to issue, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of for value its preference or preferred stock in one or more bona fide transactions to any Person; and (3) the Borrower and any Significant Subsidiary may enter into transactions permitted by Section 7.2(c); provided that immediately before and after giving effect to any such sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition described in the foregoing clauses (1), (2) and (3), no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing.

(f) Agreements Restricting Dividends. The Borrower will not, and will not permit any Significant Subsidiary to, enter into, incur or permit to exist any consensual Contractual Obligation that explicitly prohibits or restricts the payment by any Significant Subsidiary of dividends or other distributions with respect to any shares of its Capital Stock; provided that the

foregoing shall not prohibit financial incurrence, maintenance and similar covenants that indirectly have the practical effect of prohibiting or restricting the ability of a Significant Subsidiary to make such payments or provisions that require that a certain amount of capital be maintained, or prohibit the return of capital to shareholders above certain dollar limits; provided further, that the foregoing shall not apply to (i) prohibitions and restrictions imposed by law or by this Agreement, (ii) prohibitions and restrictions contained in, or existing by reason of, any agreement or instrument existing on the Closing Date, (iii) prohibitions and restrictions contained in, or existing by reason of, any agreement or instrument relating to any Indebtedness of, or otherwise to, any Person at the time such Person first becomes a Significant Subsidiary, so long as such prohibition or restriction was not created in contemplation of such Person becoming a Significant Subsidiary, (iv) prohibitions or restrictions contained in, or existing by reason of, any agreement or instrument effecting a renewal, extension, refinancing, refund or replacement (or successive extensions, renewals, refinancings, refunds or replacements) of Indebtedness or other obligations issued or outstanding under an agreement or instrument referred to in clauses (ii) and (iii) above, so long as the prohibitions or restrictions contained in any such renewal, extension, refinancing, refund or replacement agreement, taken as a whole, are not materially more restrictive than the prohibitions and restrictions contained in the original agreement or instrument, as determined in good faith by a Responsible Officer of the Borrower, (v) any prohibitions or restrictions with respect to a Significant Subsidiary imposed pursuant to an agreement that has been entered into in connection with a disposition of all or substantially all of the Capital Stock or assets of such Subsidiary, (vi) any prohibitions or restrictions in respect of preferred or preference stock permitted to be issued by Significant Subsidiaries under Section 7.2(e), (vii) restrictions in respect of Project Financings permitted hereunder and (viii) restrictions contained in joint venture agreements, partnership agreements and other similar agreements with respect to a joint ownership arrangement restricting the disposition or distribution of assets or property of, or the activities of, such joint venture, partnership or other joint ownership entity, or any of such entity's subsidiaries, if such restrictions are not applicable to the property or assets of any other entity.

(g) Certain Investments, Loans, Advances, Guarantees and Acquisitions. The Borrower will not, and will not permit any of its Significant Subsidiaries to, (i) purchase or acquire (including pursuant to any merger) any Capital Stock, evidence of indebtedness or other interest in (including any option, warrant or other right to acquire any of the foregoing), make any loans or advances to, Guarantee any obligations of, or make any investment in or capital contribution to, any Unrestricted Subsidiary (any of the foregoing, an "Investment") at any time, if the aggregate amount of net tangible assets of all Unrestricted Subsidiaries at such time exceeds, or would exceed as a result of any such Investment, 17% of the Net Tangible Assets, or (ii) make Investments in Project Financing Subsidiaries at any time if the aggregate amount of Investments at such time exceeds, or would exceed as a result of any such Investments, \$500,000,000.

(h) Revocation of Storm Certificate. The Borrower will not fail to revoke a Storm Certificate, by delivery of written notice of such revocation to the Administrative Agent, promptly upon acquiring knowledge that any statement contained in clause (ii) or (iii) of the definition of Storm Certificate as set forth in an effective Storm Certificate is no longer applicable.

ARTICLE VIII
EVENTS OF DEFAULT

SECTION 8.1. Events of Default. The occurrence of any of the following events shall constitute an “Event of Default”:

(a) Non-Payment of Principal and Interest. The Borrower fails to pay, in the manner provided in this Agreement, (i) any principal payable by it hereunder when due or (ii) any interest payment and Ticking Fees payable by it hereunder within five (5) Business Days after its due date; or

(b) Non-Payment of Other Amounts. The Borrower fails to pay, in the manner provided in this Agreement, any other amount (other than the amounts set forth in Section 8.1(a) above) payable by it hereunder when due and such default shall continue unremedied for a period of at least ten (10) Business Days after the Borrower’s receipt of notice from the Administrative Agent of such default; or

(c) Breach of Representation or Warranty. Any representation or warranty by the Borrower in Section 6.1, in any other Loan Document or in any certificate, document or instrument delivered by the Borrower under this Agreement shall have been incorrect in any material respect when made or when deemed hereunder to have been made; or

(d) Breach of Certain Covenants. The Borrower fails to perform or comply with any one or more of its obligations under Section 7.1(a)(v)(A), 7.1(b)(ii) or 7.2; or

(e) Breach of Other Obligations. The Borrower does not perform or comply with any one or more of its other obligations under this Agreement (other than those set forth in Section 8.1(a), (b) or (d) above) or under any other Loan Document and such failure to perform or comply shall not have been remedied within 30 days after the earlier of (i) notice thereof to the Borrower from the Administrative Agent or the Majority Banks and (ii) actual knowledge thereof by a Responsible Officer of the Borrower; or

(f) Other Indebtedness. (i) The Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary fails to pay when due (either at stated maturity or by acceleration or otherwise, but subject to applicable grace periods) any principal or interest in respect of any Indebtedness for Borrowed Money (other than Indebtedness of the Borrower under this Agreement), Secured Indebtedness or Junior Subordinated Debt if the aggregate principal amount of all such Indebtedness for which such failure to pay shall have occurred and be continuing exceeds \$125,000,000 or (ii) any default, event or condition shall have occurred and be continuing with respect to any Indebtedness for Borrowed Money, Secured Indebtedness or Junior Subordinated Debt of the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary (other than Indebtedness of the Borrower under this Agreement), the effect of which default, event or condition is to cause, or to permit the holder thereof to cause, (A) such Indebtedness to become due prior to its stated maturity (other than in respect of mandatory prepayments required thereby) or (B) in the case of any Guarantee of Indebtedness for Borrowed Money or Junior Subordinated Debt by the Borrower or any of its Significant Subsidiaries, the primary obligation (as such term is defined in the definition of “Guarantee” in

Section 1.1) to which such Guarantee relates to become due prior to its stated maturity, if the aggregate amount of all such Indebtedness or primary obligations with respect to which the Borrower or any of its Significant Subsidiaries is liable (as the case may be) that is or could be caused to be due prior to its stated maturity exceeds \$125,000,000; or

(g) Involuntary Bankruptcy, Etc. (i) There shall be commenced against the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary any case, proceeding or other action in any court of competent jurisdiction (A) seeking a decree or order for relief in respect of the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary under any applicable domestic or foreign bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or other similar law, (B) seeking a decree or order adjudging the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary a bankrupt or insolvent, (C) except as permitted by Section 7.2(c)(ii), seeking reorganization, arrangement, adjustment, winding-up, liquidation, dissolution, composition or other similar relief of or in respect of the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary or their respective debts under any applicable domestic or foreign bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or other similar law or (D) seeking the appointment of a custodian, receiver, conservator, liquidator, assignee, trustee, sequestrator or other similar official of the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary or of any substantial part of their respective Properties, and, in the case of each of the foregoing clauses (A), (B), (C) and (D), such case, proceeding or other action is not dismissed within 90 days; or (ii) a decree, order or other judgment is entered in respect of any of the remedies, reliefs or other matters for which any case, proceeding or other action referred to in clause (i) above is commenced; or (iii) there shall be commenced against the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary any case, proceeding or other action seeking issuance of a warrant of attachment, execution, distraint or similar process against all or any substantial part of its assets that results in the entry of an order for any such relief that shall not have been vacated, discharged or stayed or bonded pending appeal within 90 days from the entry thereof; or

(h) Voluntary Bankruptcy, Etc. (i) The commencement by the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary of a voluntary case, proceeding or other action under any applicable domestic or foreign bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or other similar law (A) seeking to have an order of relief entered with respect to it, (B) seeking to be adjudicated a bankrupt or insolvent, (C) seeking reorganization, arrangement, adjustment, winding-up, liquidation, dissolution, composition or other similar relief with respect to it or its debts under any applicable domestic or foreign bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or other similar law or (D) seeking the appointment of or the taking possession by a custodian, receiver, conservator, liquidator, assignee, trustee, sequestrator or similar official of the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary of any substantial part of its Properties; or (ii) the making by the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary of a general assignment for the benefit of creditors; or (iii) the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary shall take any action in furtherance of, or indicating its consent to, approval of, or acquiescence in, any of the acts described in clause (i) or (ii) above or in Section 8.1(g); or (iv) the admission by the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary in writing of its inability to pay its debts generally as they become due or the failure by the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary generally to pay its debts as such debts become due; or

(i) Judgments. One or more final judgments or decrees for the payment of money in an aggregate amount in excess of \$125,000,000 (to the extent not covered by insurance) shall be rendered by one or more courts of competent jurisdiction against the Borrower or any Significant Subsidiary, and the same shall remain undischarged for a period of 60 days during which the execution thereon shall not effectively be stayed, released, bonded or vacated; or

(j) ERISA Events. The existence of an event or events, individually or, in the aggregate, that could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect arising out of or in connection with (i) any “prohibited transaction” (as defined in Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code) involving any Plan, (ii) the failure by any Plan to satisfy the minimum funding standards (within the meaning of Section 412 of the Code or Section 302 of ERISA) by a Plan, whether or not waived, or any Lien in favor of the PBGC or a Plan on the assets of the Borrower or any Commonly Controlled Entity, (iii) the occurrence of a Reportable Event with respect to, or the commencement of proceedings under Section 4042 of ERISA to have a trustee appointed, or the appointment of a trustee under Section 4042 of ERISA, to administer or to terminate any Single Employer Plan, which Reportable Event, commencement of proceedings or appointment of a trustee would reasonably be expected to result in the termination of such Plan for purposes of Title IV of ERISA, (iv) the termination of any Single Employer Plan for purposes of Title IV of ERISA or (v) withdrawal from, or the Insolvency of, a Multiemployer Plan; or

(k) Change in Control. A Change in Control shall have occurred.

SECTION 8.2. Cancellation/Acceleration. If at any time and for any reason (whether within or beyond the control of any party to this Agreement):

(a) either of the Events of Default specified in Section 8.1(g) or 8.1(h) occurs with respect to the Borrower, then automatically:

(i) the Commitments shall immediately be cancelled; and

(ii) all Loans made hereunder, all unpaid accrued interest or fees and any other sum payable under this Agreement or any other Loan Document shall become immediately due and payable; or

(b) any other Event of Default specified in Section 8.1 occurs, then, at any time thereafter while such Event of Default is continuing, the Administrative Agent shall, upon the instruction of the Majority Banks, by notice to the Borrower, declare that:

(i) the Commitments shall immediately be cancelled; and/or

(ii) either (A) all Loans made hereunder, all unpaid accrued interest or fees and any other sum payable under this Agreement or any other Loan Document shall become immediately due and payable or (B) all Loans made hereunder, all unpaid accrued interest or fees and any other sum payable under this Agreement or any other Loan Document shall become due and payable at any time thereafter immediately on demand by the Administrative Agent (acting on the instructions of the Majority Banks).

Except as expressly provided above in this Section 8.2, presentment, demand, protest, notice of intent to accelerate, notice of acceleration and all other notices of any kind whatsoever are hereby expressly waived by the Borrower.

ARTICLE IX
THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT

SECTION 9.1. Appointment. Each Bank hereby irrevocably designates and appoints Mizuho Bank, Ltd. as the Administrative Agent of such Bank under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, and each such Bank irrevocably authorizes Mizuho Bank, Ltd., as the Administrative Agent for such Bank, to take such action on its behalf under the provisions of this Agreement and the other Loan Documents and to exercise such powers and perform such duties as are expressly delegated to the Administrative Agent by the terms of this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, together with such other powers as are reasonably incidental thereto. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary elsewhere in this Agreement, (a) the Administrative Agent shall not have any duties or responsibilities, except those expressly set forth herein, or any fiduciary relationship with any Bank, and no implied covenants, functions, responsibilities, duties, obligations or liabilities shall be read into this Agreement or any other Loan Document or otherwise exist against the Administrative Agent and (b) the Lead Arranger shall not have any duties or responsibilities hereunder, or any fiduciary relationship with any Bank, and no implied covenants, functions, responsibilities, duties, obligations or liabilities shall be read into this Agreement or any other Loan Document or otherwise exist against the Lead Arranger.

SECTION 9.2. Delegation of Duties. The Administrative Agent may execute any of its duties under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents by or through agents or attorneys-in-fact and shall be entitled to advice of counsel concerning all matters pertaining to such duties. The Administrative Agent shall not be responsible for the negligence or misconduct of any agents or attorneys-in-fact selected by it with reasonable care.

SECTION 9.3. Exculpatory Provisions. Neither the Administrative Agent nor any of its officers, directors, employees, agents, advisors, attorneys-in-fact or Affiliates shall be (a) liable for any action lawfully taken or omitted to be taken by it or such Person under or in connection with this Agreement or any other Loan Document (except to the extent that any of the foregoing are found by a final and non-appealable decision of a court of competent jurisdiction to have resulted from its or such Person's own gross negligence or willful misconduct) or (b) responsible in any manner to any of the Banks for any recitals, statements, representations or warranties made by the Borrower or any officer thereof contained in this Agreement or any other Loan Document or in any certificate, report, statement or other document referred to or provided for in, or received by the Administrative Agent under or in connection with, this Agreement or any other Loan Document or for the value, validity, effectiveness, genuineness, enforceability or sufficiency of this Agreement or any Note or any other Loan Document or for any failure of the Borrower to perform its obligations hereunder or thereunder. The Administrative Agent shall not be under any obligation to any Bank to ascertain or to inquire as to the observance or performance of any of the agreements contained in, or conditions of, this Agreement or any other Loan Document, or to inspect the properties, books or records of the Borrower.

SECTION 9.4. Reliance by Administrative Agent. The Administrative Agent shall be entitled to rely, and shall be fully protected in relying, upon any instrument, note, writing, resolution, notice, consent, certificate, affidavit, letter, facsimile, email, statement, order or other document or conversation believed by it to be genuine and correct and to have been signed, sent or made by the proper Person or Persons and upon advice and statements of legal counsel (including counsel to the Borrower), independent accountants and other experts selected by the Administrative Agent with reasonable care. The Administrative Agent may deem and treat the payee of any Note or any loan account in the Register as the owner thereof for all purposes unless a written notice of assignment, negotiation or transfer thereof shall have been filed with the Administrative Agent. The Administrative Agent shall be fully justified in failing or refusing to take any action under this Agreement or any other Loan Document unless it shall first receive such advice or concurrence of the Majority Banks (or, if so specified by this Agreement, all Banks) as it deems appropriate or it shall first be indemnified to its satisfaction by the Banks against any and all liability and expense that may be incurred by it by reason of taking or continuing to take any such action. The Administrative Agent shall in all cases be fully protected in acting, or in refraining from acting, under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents in accordance with a request of the Majority Banks (or, if so specified by this Agreement, all Banks), and such request and any action taken or failure to act pursuant thereto shall be binding upon all the Banks and all future holders of the amounts owing hereunder.

SECTION 9.5. Notice of Default. The Administrative Agent shall not be deemed to have knowledge or notice of the occurrence of any Default or Event of Default hereunder unless the Administrative Agent has received notice from a Bank or the Borrower referring to this Agreement, describing such Default or Event of Default and stating that such notice is a "notice of default". In the event that the Administrative Agent receives such a notice, the Administrative Agent shall give notice thereof to the Banks. The Administrative Agent shall take such action with respect to such Default or Event of Default as shall be reasonably directed by the Majority Banks (or, if so specified by this Agreement, all Banks); provided that unless and until the Administrative Agent shall have received such directions, the Administrative Agent may (but shall not be obligated to) take such action, or refrain from taking such action, with respect to such Default or Event of Default as it shall deem advisable in the best interests of the Banks.

SECTION 9.6. Non-Reliance on Administrative Agent, Lead Arranger and Other Banks. Each Bank expressly acknowledges that neither the Administrative Agent and the Lead Arranger nor any of their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, advisors, attorneys-in-fact or Affiliates have made any representations or warranties to it and that no act by the Administrative Agent or the Lead Arranger hereafter taken, including any review of the affairs of the Borrower, shall be deemed to constitute any representation or warranty by the Administrative Agent or the Lead Arranger, as applicable, to any Bank. Each Bank represents to the Administrative Agent and the Lead Arranger that it has, independently and without reliance upon the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger or any other Bank, and based on such documents and information as it has deemed appropriate, made its own appraisal of and investigation into the business, operations, property, financial and other condition and creditworthiness of the Borrower and made its own decision to make its Loans hereunder and enter into this Agreement. Each Bank also represents that it will, independently and without reliance upon the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger or any other Bank, and based on such documents and information as it shall deem appropriate at the time, continue to make its own credit analysis, appraisals and decisions in taking or not taking action under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, and to make such investigation as it deems necessary to inform itself as to the business, operations, property, financial and other condition and creditworthiness of the

Borrower. Except for notices, reports and other documents expressly required to be furnished to the Banks by the Administrative Agent hereunder, the Administrative Agent shall not have any duty or responsibility to provide any Bank with any credit or other information concerning the business, operations, property, condition (financial or otherwise), prospects or creditworthiness of the Borrower that may come into the possession of the Administrative Agent or any of its officers, directors, employees, agents, advisors, attorneys-in-fact or Affiliates.

SECTION 9.7. Indemnification. The Banks agree to indemnify the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger and their respective affiliates and their and their affiliates' respective officers, directors, employees, partners, affiliates, agents, advisors, and controlling persons (each, an "Agent Indemnatee") (to the extent not reimbursed by the Borrower and without limiting the obligation of the Borrower to do so), ratably according to their respective applicable Loan Percentages in effect on the date on which indemnification is sought under this Section 9.7 (or, if indemnification is sought after the date upon which the Commitments shall have terminated and the Loans shall have been paid in full, ratably in accordance with such applicable Loan Percentages immediately prior to such date), from and against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, actions, judgments, suits, costs, expenses or disbursements of any kind whatsoever that may at any time (including at any time following the payment of all amounts owing hereunder and the termination of the Commitments) be imposed on, incurred by or asserted against such Agent Indemnatee in any way relating to or arising out of, the Commitments, this Agreement, any of the other Loan Documents or any documents contemplated by or referred to herein or therein or the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby or any action taken or omitted by such Agent Indemnatee under or in connection with any of the foregoing; provided that no Bank shall be liable for the payment of any portion of such liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, actions, judgments, suits, costs, expenses or disbursements that are found to be by a final and non-appealable decision of a court of competent jurisdiction to have resulted from such Agent Indemnatee's gross negligence or willful misconduct. The agreements in this Section 9.7 shall survive the termination of this Agreement and the payment of the Loans and all other amounts payable hereunder.

SECTION 9.8. Administrative Agent in Its Individual Capacity. The Administrative Agent and its Affiliates may make loans to, accept deposits from and generally engage in any kind of business with the Borrower as though the Administrative Agent were not the Administrative Agent hereunder and under the other Loan Documents. With respect to its Loans made or renewed by it and its Commitment hereunder, the Administrative Agent shall have the same rights and powers under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents as any Bank and may exercise the same as though it were not the Administrative Agent, and the terms "Bank" and "Banks" shall include the Administrative Agent in its individual capacity.

SECTION 9.9. Successor Administrative Agent. The Administrative Agent may resign as Administrative Agent upon 30 days' notice to the Banks and the Borrower. If the Administrative Agent shall resign as Administrative Agent under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, then the Majority Banks shall appoint from among the Banks a successor agent for the Banks, which successor agent shall (unless an Event of Default under Sections 8.1(a), (g) or (h) with respect to the Borrower shall have occurred and be continuing) be subject to approval by the Borrower (which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed), whereupon such successor agent shall succeed to the rights, powers and duties of the

Administrative Agent, and the term “Administrative Agent” shall mean such successor agent effective upon such appointment and approval, and the former Administrative Agent’s rights, powers and duties as Administrative Agent shall be terminated, without any other or further act or deed on the part of such former Administrative Agent or any of the parties to this Agreement or any holders of any amounts payable hereunder. If a successor Administrative Agent shall not have been so appointed within 15 days after the resigning Administrative Agent gives notice of its resignation, the resigning Administrative Agent may then appoint a successor Administrative Agent who shall be a financial institution engaged or licensed to conduct banking business under the laws of the United States with an office in the United States and that has total assets in excess of \$500,000,000 and who shall serve as Administrative Agent until such time, if any, as an Administrative Agent shall have been appointed by the Majority Banks (with the consent of the Borrower to the extent required above) as provided above. After any Administrative Agent’s resignation as Administrative Agent, the provisions of this Article IX and of Section 10.5 shall continue to inure to its benefit as to any actions taken or omitted to be taken by it while it was Administrative Agent under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents.

SECTION 9.10. Lead Arranger. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, no Bank identified as a “Lead Arranger” shall have the right, power, obligation, liability, responsibility or duty under this Agreement or any other Loan Document other than those applicable to all Banks as such. Without limiting the foregoing, none of the Banks so identified shall have or be deemed to have any fiduciary relationship with any Bank. Each Bank acknowledges that it has not relied, and will not rely, on any of the Banks so identified in deciding to enter into this Agreement or not taking action hereunder.

SECTION 9.11. Certain ERISA Matters.

(a) Each Bank (x) represents and warrants, as of the date such Person became a Bank party hereto, to, and (y) covenants, from the date such Person became a Bank party hereto to the date such Person ceases being a Bank party hereto, for the benefit of, the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger and their respective Affiliates, and not, for the avoidance of doubt, to or for the benefit of the Borrower, that at least one of the following is and will be true:

(i) such Bank is not using “plan assets” (within the meaning of the Plan Asset Regulations) of one or more Benefit Plans in connection with the Loans or the Commitments;

(ii) the transaction exemption set forth in one or more PTEs, such as PTE 84-14 (a class exemption for certain transactions determined by independent qualified professional asset managers), PTE 95-60 (a class exemption for certain transactions involving insurance company general accounts), PTE 90-1 (a class exemption for certain transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts), PTE 91-38 (a class exemption for certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds) or PTE 96-23 (a class exemption for certain transactions determined by in-house asset managers), is applicable with respect to such Bank’s entrance into, participation in, administration of and performance of the Loans, the Commitments and this Agreement;

(iii) (A) such Bank is an investment fund managed by a “Qualified Professional Asset Manager” (within the meaning of Part VI of PTE 84-14), (B) such Qualified Professional Asset Manager made the investment decision on behalf of such Bank to enter into, participate in, administer and perform the Loans, the Commitments and this Agreement, (C) the entrance into, participation in, administration of and performance of the Loans, the Commitments and this Agreement satisfies the requirements of sub-sections (b) through (g) of Part I of PTE 84-14 and (D) to the best knowledge of such Bank, the requirements of subsection (a) of Part I of PTE 84-14 are satisfied with respect to such Bank’s entrance into, participation in, administration of and performance of the Loans, the Commitments and this Agreement; or

(iv) such other representation, warranty and covenant as may be agreed in writing between the Administrative Agent, in its sole discretion, and such Bank.

(b) In addition, unless sub-clause (i) in the immediately preceding clause (a) is true with respect to a Bank or such Bank has provided another representation, warranty and covenant as provided in sub-clause (iv) in the immediately preceding clause (a), such Bank further (x) represents and warrants, as of the date such Person became a Bank party hereto, to, and (y) covenants, from the date such Person became a Bank party hereto to the date such Person ceases being a Bank party hereto, for the benefit of, the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger and their respective Affiliates, and not, for the avoidance of doubt, to or for the benefit of the Borrower, that none of the Administrative Agent, the Lead Arranger or any of their respective Affiliates is a fiduciary with respect to the assets of such Bank (including in connection with the reservation or exercise of any rights by the Administrative Agent under this Agreement, any Loan Document or any documents related to hereto or thereto).

(c) The Administrative Agent and the Lead Arranger hereby inform the Banks that each such Person is not undertaking to provide investment advice or to give advice in a fiduciary capacity, in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby, and that such Person has a financial interest in the transactions contemplated hereby in that such Person or an Affiliate thereof (i) may receive interest or other payments with respect to the Loans, the Commitments, this Agreement and any other Loan Documents, (ii) may recognize a gain if it extended the Loans or the Commitments for an amount less than the amount being paid for an interest in the Loans or the Commitments by such Bank or (iii) may receive fees or other payments in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby, the Loan Documents or otherwise, including structuring fees, arrangement fees, agency fees, administrative agent fees, commitment fees, fronting fees, amendment fees, processing fees, banker’s acceptance fees, breakage or other early termination fees or fees similar to the foregoing.

SECTION 9.12. Recovery of Erroneous Payments.

(a) If the Administrative Agent notifies a Bank (any such Bank, a “Payment Recipient”) that the Administrative Agent has determined in its sole discretion (whether or not after receipt of any notice under immediately succeeding clause (b)) that any funds received by such Payment Recipient from the Administrative Agent or any of its Affiliates were erroneously transmitted to, or otherwise erroneously or mistakenly received by, such Payment Recipient (whether or not known to such Payment Recipient) (any such funds, whether received as a