

(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.

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) The Borrowing made on the Closing Date shall initially 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 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 4.7(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 (5<sup>th</sup>) 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, 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. 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 4.7(b), any additional amounts, computed by such Bank in accordance with Section 4.7(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 4.7(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 4.7(b), additional amounts, computed by such Bank in accordance with Section 4.7(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 4.6(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(c) 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 4.6(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).

(c)

(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 E-2 or Exhibit E-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(c), 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(c)) 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. 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 4.5 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 4.5 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 4.6. 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 4.6(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 4.7. 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 4.7(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 or before March 31, 2023, 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 bylaws and articles of incorporation of the Borrower as in effect on the date of such certification and (iii) the resolutions of the Board of Directors 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) Shearman & Sterling, 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 a certificate dated as of a recent date on or prior to the Closing Date of the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware as to the good standing of the Borrower.

(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, 2021 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 Arrangers and the Banks all fees required to be paid to them by the Borrower on or before the Closing Date as agreed in writing by the Borrower.

(h) The Administrative Agent shall have received a Notice of Borrowing as required by Section 2.2.



(i) 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.

(j) 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.

(k) At the time of and immediately after giving effect to the making of the Loans on the Closing Date, no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing.

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

#### 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 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 corporate 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 corporate 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 corporate 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 incorporation or bylaws (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 corporate purposes, including the repayment of indebtedness of the Borrower and its Subsidiaries. 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, 2021, 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, 2021 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 and its Consolidated 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) Senior Indebtedness. The Indebtedness of the Borrower under this Agreement constitutes "Senior Debt" (or a similar term) of the Borrower under any indenture governing any Junior Subordinated Debt.

(r) 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).

(s) 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.

(i) 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, 2022), 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, retained earnings 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 March 31, 2023), 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, retained earnings 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)(ii).

(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 65%.

(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 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);

(iv) Liens arising in connection with the securitization of accounts receivable of (A) the Borrower and its Subsidiaries, to the extent affecting only the accounts receivable of the Borrower and its Subsidiaries and assets customarily related thereto or (B) any Securitization Subsidiary;

(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; (G) the Borrower and any Significant Subsidiary may make Permitted JV Asset Transfers; and (H) the Borrower and any Significant Subsidiary may enter into transactions permitted under Section 7.2(c); provided that (x) in the case of any transaction described in clauses (A) through (H), 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 clause (A), (F) or (H) (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(c), (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; (3) the Borrower and any Significant Subsidiary may make Permitted JV Asset Transfers and (4) the Borrower and any Significant Subsidiary may enter into transactions permitted by Section 7.2(c); provided that (A) immediately before and after giving effect to any such sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition described in the foregoing clauses (1), (2), (3) and (4), no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing and (B) in the case of any such Permitted JV Asset Transfer permitted under the foregoing clause (3) or the transactions permitted under the foregoing clause (4), after giving effect to such Permitted JV Asset Transfer or such transactions, as applicable, the Borrower shall be in pro forma compliance with Section 7.2(a).

(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, 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, other than (A) Investments in Joint Venture Entities that are Unrestricted Subsidiaries and (B) other Investments so long as the aggregate amount of net tangible assets of all Unrestricted Subsidiaries (other than Joint Venture Entities that are Unrestricted Subsidiaries) at such time does not exceed, or would not exceed as a result of any such Investment, 17% of the Net Tangible Assets.

## 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 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 Arrangers 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 Arrangers.

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 Arrangers and Other Banks.** Each Bank expressly acknowledges that neither the Administrative Agent and the Lead Arrangers 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 any 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 any Lead Arranger, as applicable, to any Bank. Each Bank represents to the Administrative Agent and the Lead Arrangers that it has, independently and without reliance upon the Administrative Agent, any 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, any 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, each 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 Indemnitee") (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 Indemnitee 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 Indemnitee 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 Indemnitee'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 Arrangers.** 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, each 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, each 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, any 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 each Lead Arranger hereby informs 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 payment, prepayment or repayment of principal, interest, fees, distribution or otherwise, individually and collectively, an "Erroneous Payment") and demands the return of such Erroneous Payment (or a portion thereof), such Erroneous Payment shall at all times remain the property of the Administrative Agent and shall be segregated by the Payment Recipient and held in trust for the benefit of the Administrative Agent, and such Payment Recipient shall promptly, but in no event later than two Business Days thereafter, return to the Administrative Agent the amount of any such Erroneous Payment (or portion thereof) as to which such a demand was made, in same day funds (in the currency so received), together with interest thereon in respect of each day from and including the date such Erroneous Payment (or portion thereof) was received by such Payment Recipient to the date such amount is repaid to the Administrative Agent in same day funds at the greater of the Federal Funds Rate and a rate determined by the Administrative Agent in accordance with banking industry rules on interbank compensation from time to time in effect. A notice of the Administrative Agent to any Payment Recipient under this clause (a) shall be conclusive, absent manifest error.

(b) Without limiting immediately preceding clause (a), each Payment Recipient hereby further agrees that if it receives a payment, prepayment or repayment (whether received as a payment, prepayment or repayment of principal, interest, fees, distribution or otherwise) from the Administrative Agent (or any of its Affiliates) (x) that is in a different amount than, or on a different date from, that specified in a notice of payment, prepayment or repayment sent by the Administrative Agent (or any of its Affiliates) with respect to such payment, prepayment or repayment, (y) that was not preceded or accompanied by a notice of payment, prepayment or repayment sent by the Administrative Agent (or any of its Affiliates), or (z) that such Payment Recipient, otherwise becomes aware was transmitted, or received, in error or by mistake (in whole or in part) in each case:

(i) in the case of immediately preceding clauses (x) or (y), an error shall be presumed to have been made (absent written confirmation from the Administrative Agent to the contrary) or (B) an error has been made (in the case of immediately preceding clause (z)), in each case, with respect to such payment, prepayment or repayment; and

(ii) such Payment Recipient shall (and shall cause any other recipient that receives funds on its respective behalf to) promptly (and, in all events, within one Business Day of its knowledge of such error) notify the Administrative Agent of its receipt of such payment, prepayment or repayment, the details thereof (in reasonable detail) and that it is so notifying the Administrative Agent pursuant to this Section 9.12(b).

(c) Each Payment Recipient hereby authorizes the Administrative Agent to set off, net and apply any and all amounts at any time owing to such Payment Recipient under any Loan Document, or otherwise payable or distributable by the Administrative Agent to such Payment Recipient from any source, against any amount due to the Administrative Agent under immediately preceding clause (a) or under the indemnification provisions of this Agreement. In addition, each party hereto agrees that, irrespective of whether the Administrative Agent may be equitably subrogated, the Administrative Agent shall be contractually subrogated to all the rights and interests of the applicable Payment Recipient under the Loan Documents with respect to each Erroneous Payment (or portion thereof that is not returned to the Administrative Agent as provided herein).

(d) The parties hereto agree that an Erroneous Payment shall not pay, prepay, repay, discharge or otherwise satisfy any amounts owed by the Borrower or any other Credit Party under any Loan Document.

(e) To the extent permitted by applicable law, no Payment Recipient shall assert any right or claim to an Erroneous Payment, and hereby waives, and is deemed to waive, any claim, counterclaim, defense or right of set-off or recoupment with respect to any demand, claim or counterclaim by the Administrative Agent for the return of any Erroneous Payment received, including without limitation waiver of any defense based on "discharge for value" or any similar doctrine.

(f) Each party's obligations, agreements and waivers under this Section 9.12 shall survive the resignation or replacement of the Administrative Agent, any transfer of rights or obligations by, or the replacement of, a Bank, the termination of the Commitments and/or the repayment, satisfaction or discharge of all amounts owing (or any portion thereof) under any Loan Document.

#### ARTICLE X

#### MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 10.1. Amendments and Waivers. Subject to Section 2.3(b) and Section 3.9, neither this Agreement nor any other Loan Document, nor any provision hereof or thereof, may be waived, amended, supplemented or modified except pursuant to an instrument or instruments

in writing entered into by the Borrower and the Majority Banks or by the Borrower and the Administrative Agent with the consent of the Majority Banks; provided that (x) no Defaulting Bank shall have any right to approve or disapprove any such waiver, amendment or modification and (y) in no such event shall any such waiver, amendment or modification:

- (i) increase the amount or extend the expiration date of any Bank's Commitment without the consent of such Bank;
- (ii) reduce the principal amount of any Loan, or extend the scheduled date of maturity of any Loan, or reduce the stated rate of any interest or fee payable hereunder or extend the scheduled date of any payment thereof, in each case without the consent of each Bank directly affected thereby;
- (iii) amend, modify or waive any provision of this Section 10.1 or of Section 4.2 in a manner that would alter the pro rata sharing of payments required thereby, or reduce the percentage specified in the definition of Majority Banks, or 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 written consent of all the Banks;
- (iv) amend, modify or waive any provision of Article IX without the written consent of the Administrative Agent at the time; or
- (v) amend, modify or waive any provision of Section 2.3 without the written consent of the Administrative Agent.

Any such waiver, amendment, supplement or modification shall apply equally to each of the Banks and shall be binding upon the Borrower, the Banks, the Administrative Agent and all future holders of the amounts payable hereunder. In the case of any waiver (to the extent specified therein), the Borrower, the Banks and the Administrative Agent shall be restored to their former position and rights hereunder and under any other Loan Documents, and any Default or Event of Default waived shall be deemed to be cured and not continuing, but no such waiver shall extend to any subsequent or other Default or Event of Default, or impair any right consequent thereon.

#### SECTION 10.2. Notices.

(a) Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, all notices, requests and demands to or upon the respective parties hereto shall be in writing (including by facsimile followed by any original sent by mail or delivery), and, shall be deemed to have been duly given or made when delivered by hand, or three days after being deposited in the mail, postage prepaid, or, in the case of facsimile notice, when received, addressed as follows in the case of the Borrower and the Administrative Agent, and as set forth in Schedule 1.1 in the case of the other parties hereto, or to such other address as may be hereafter notified by the respective parties hereto pursuant to paragraph (c) below and any future holders of the amounts payable hereunder:

Borrower: 1111 Louisiana  
Houston, Texas 77002

Attention: Jacqueline M. Richert  
 Vice President, Investor Relations & Treasurer  
 Facsimile: (713) 207-9380

With a copy to: 1111 Louisiana  
 Houston, Texas 77002

Attention: Brett Jernan, Assistant Treasurer  
 Facsimile: (713) 207-9550

Administrative Agent: Mizuho Bank, Ltd.  
 Harborside Financial Center  
 1800 PLAZA TEN  
 Jersey City, NJ 07311-4098

Attention: Amy Cho  
 Facsimile: 201-626-9262  
 Email: amy.cho@mizuhogroup.com /  
 lau\_agent@mizuhogroup.com

provided that any notice, request or demand to or upon the Administrative Agent or the Banks shall not be effective until received during such recipient's normal business hours.

(b) The Borrower hereby acknowledges that (i) certain of the Banks may be "public-side" Banks (i.e., Banks that do not wish to receive material non-public information with respect to the Borrower or its securities) (each, a "Public Lender") and (ii) the Administrative Agent will make available to the Banks certain notices, requests, financial statements, financial and other reports, certificates and other information materials, but excluding any such communication that initiates or responds to the legal process (all such non-excluded information being referred to herein collectively as the "Communications") on IntraLinks or another relevant website (whether a commercial, third-party website or whether sponsored by the Administrative Agent) (the "Platform"). The Borrower hereby agrees that (i) all Communications that are to be made available to Public Lenders shall be clearly and conspicuously marked "PUBLIC" which, at a minimum, shall mean that the word "PUBLIC" shall appear prominently on the first page thereof, (ii) by marking Communications "PUBLIC," the Borrower shall be deemed to have authorized the Administrative Agent and the Banks to treat such Communications as not containing any material non-public information with respect to the Borrower or its securities for purposes of United States Federal and state securities laws, it being understood that certain of such Communications may be subject to the confidentiality requirements hereof, (iii) all Communications marked "PUBLIC" are permitted to be made available through a portion of the Platform designated "Public Investor," and (iv) the Administrative Agent shall be entitled to treat any Communications that are not marked "PUBLIC" as being suitable only for posting on a portion of the Platform not designated "Public Investor." Notwithstanding the foregoing, (A) the Borrower shall be under no obligation to mark any Communications "PUBLIC," and each Public Lender hereby waives its right to receive any Communications that are not marked "PUBLIC"; and (B) the Administrative Agent shall treat Communications that are deemed to have been delivered based on notice pursuant to the last sentence of Section 7.1(a) as "PUBLIC."



(c) The Administrative Agent or the Borrower may, in its discretion, agree to accept notices and other communications pursuant to procedures approved by it; provided that approval of such procedures may be limited to particular notices or circumstances.

(d) Any party hereto may change its address, facsimile number or electronic mail address for notices and other communications hereunder by notice to the other parties hereto.

**SECTION 10.3. No Waiver; Cumulative Remedies.** No failure to exercise and no delay in exercising, on the part of the Administrative Agent or any Bank, any right, remedy, power or privilege hereunder shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right, remedy, power or privilege hereunder preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right, remedy, power or privilege. The rights, remedies, powers and privileges herein provided are cumulative and not exclusive of any rights, remedies, powers and privileges provided by law.

**SECTION 10.4. Survival of Representations and Warranties.** All representations and warranties made hereunder and in any document, certificate or statement delivered pursuant hereto or in connection herewith shall survive the execution and delivery of this Agreement.

**SECTION 10.5. Payment of Expenses; Indemnity; Limitation of Liability, Etc.**

(a) Expenses. The Borrower agrees (i) to pay all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses of each Lead Arranger associated with the syndication of the facility, (ii) to pay or reimburse the Administrative Agent for all its reasonable out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred in connection with the preparation, negotiation and execution and delivery of, and any amendment, supplement or modification to, this Agreement and the other Loan Documents and any other documents prepared in connection herewith or therewith, and the consummation and administration of the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby, including the reasonable fees and disbursements of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, counsel to the Administrative Agent (but excluding the fees or disbursements of any other counsel), (iii) to pay or reimburse the Administrative Agent for all its costs and expenses incurred in connection with the enforcement or preservation of its rights under this Agreement, the other Loan Documents and any other documents prepared in connection herewith or therewith, including the reasonable fees and disbursements of the special counsel to the Administrative Agent, (iv) to pay or reimburse each Bank for all its costs and expenses incurred in connection with the enforcement, or at any time after the occurrence and during the continuance of a Default or an Event of Default, the preservation, of its rights under this Agreement, the other Loan Documents and any other documents prepared in connection herewith or therewith, including (A) the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel to such Bank and (B) other out-of-pocket expenses incurred during any workout, restructuring or negotiations in respect of such Loans and (v) without duplication of any other provision contained in this Agreement or any Notes, to pay, indemnify, and hold each Bank and the Administrative Agent harmless from, any and all recording and filing fees (for which each Bank has not been otherwise reimbursed by the Borrower under this Agreement), if any, that may be payable or determined to be payable in connection with the execution and delivery of, or consummation or administration of any of the transactions contemplated by, or any amendment, supplement or modification of, or any waiver or consent under or in respect of,

this Agreement, the other Loan Documents and any other documents prepared in connection herewith or therewith.

(b) Indemnity. Without duplication of any other provision contained in this Agreement or any Notes, the Borrower agrees to pay, indemnify and hold the Administrative Agent, each Lead Arranger and each Bank together with their respective affiliates and their and their affiliates' respective directors, officers, employees, agents, trustees, advisors and Affiliates (collectively, the "Indemnified Persons"), harmless from and against, any and all losses, claims, damages and liabilities (and shall reimburse each Indemnified Person upon demand for any reasonable legal or other expenses incurred by such Indemnified Person in connection with investigating or defending any of the foregoing), incurred by any Indemnified Person arising out of, in connection with, or as a result of the execution, delivery, enforcement, performance and administration of this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, or the use, or proposed use, of proceeds of the Loans (all the foregoing in this clause (b), collectively, the "Indemnified Liabilities"); provided that (x) the Borrower shall have no obligation hereunder to an Indemnified Person with respect to Indemnified Liabilities arising from or in connection with (A) the gross negligence or willful misconduct of such Indemnified Person or (B) the material breach by such Indemnified Person of the express terms of this Agreement, in the case of each of the foregoing clauses (A) and (B) as determined by a final, non-appealable judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction and (y) without limiting the provisions of Section 4.3(c), this Section 10.5(b) shall not apply with respect to Taxes other than any Taxes that represent losses, claims, damages, etc. arising from any non-Tax claim; AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS DESCRIBED HEREIN, IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE BORROWER TO INDEMNIFY THE INDEMNIFIED PERSONS AGAINST THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR OWN NEGLIGENCE. In the case of an investigation, litigation or other proceeding to which the indemnity in this Section 10.5(b) applies, such indemnity shall be effective whether or not such investigation, litigation or proceeding is brought by the Borrower, any of the Borrower's directors, security holders, affiliates, creditors, an Indemnified Person or any other Person, whether or not an Indemnified Person is otherwise a party to this Agreement.

(c) Limitation of Liability. Each party hereto hereby waives, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, any right it may have to claim or recover from any other party hereto any special, indirect, punitive or consequential damages (as opposed to direct or actual damages) arising out of, in connection with, or as a result of the execution, delivery, enforcement, performance and administration of this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, or the use, or proposed use, of proceeds of the Loans; provided that nothing contained in this paragraph (c) shall limit the Borrower's indemnification provisions contained in paragraph (b) above.

(d) The agreements in this Section 10.5 shall survive repayment of the Loans and all other amounts payable hereunder and termination of this Agreement.

#### SECTION 10.6. Effectiveness, Successors and Assigns; Participations; Assignments.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on the date hereof and thereafter shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Borrower, the Banks, the Administrative Agent, all

future holders of the Loans and their respective successors and assigns, except that the Borrower may not assign or transfer any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of each Bank.

(b) Any Bank may, without the consent of or notice to the Borrower or the Administrative Agent, in the ordinary course of its business and in accordance with applicable law, at any time sell to one or more banks or other financial institutions or Bank Affiliates (a "Participant") participating interests in any Loan owing to such Bank, any Note held by such Bank, any Commitment of such Bank or any other interest of such Bank hereunder and under the other Loan Documents. In the event of any such sale by a Bank of a participating interest to a Participant, such Bank's obligations under this Agreement to the other parties to this Agreement shall remain unchanged, such Bank shall remain solely responsible for the performance thereof, such Bank shall remain the holder of any such Loan and Commitment or other interest for all purposes under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, the Borrower and the Administrative Agent shall continue to deal solely and directly with such Bank in connection with such Bank's rights and obligations under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents and, except with respect to the matters set forth in Section 10.1, the amendment of which requires the consent of all of the Banks, the participation agreement between the selling Bank and the Participant may not restrict such Bank's voting rights hereunder. The Borrower agrees that each Participant shall be entitled to the benefits of Sections 4.1 and 4.3 (subject to the requirements and limitations therein, including the requirements under Section 4.3(e) and Section 4.3(f) (it being understood that the documentation required under Section 4.3(e) and Section 4.3(f) shall be delivered to the participating Bank)) to the same extent as if it were a Bank and had acquired its interest by assignment pursuant to paragraph (c) of this Section; provided that such Participant (i) agrees to be subject to the provisions of Sections 4.1 and 4.3 as if it were an assignee under paragraph (c) of this Section and (ii) shall not be entitled to receive any greater payment under Sections 4.1 or 4.3, with respect to any participation, than its participating Bank would have been entitled to receive, except to the extent such entitlement to receive a greater payment results from an adoption of or any change in any Requirement of Law or in the interpretation or application thereof 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 hereof that occurs after the Participant acquired the applicable participation. The Borrower further agrees that each Participant, to the extent provided in its participation, shall be entitled to the benefits of Section 3.7 with respect to its participation in the Commitments and the Loans outstanding from time to time; provided that (i) no Participant shall be entitled to receive any greater amount pursuant to such Sections than the selling Bank would have been entitled to receive in respect of the amount of the participation sold by such selling Bank to such Participant had no such sale occurred and (ii) each such sale of participating interests shall be to a "qualified purchaser", as such term is defined under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. Except as expressly provided in this Section 10.6(b), no Participant shall be a third-party beneficiary of or have any rights under this Agreement or under any of the other Loan Documents. Each Bank that sells a participation, acting solely for this purpose as a non-fiduciary agent of the Borrower, shall maintain a register on which it enters the name and address of each Participant and the principal amounts (and stated interest) of each Participant's interest in the Loans or other obligations under this Agreement (the "Participant Register"); provided that no Bank shall have any obligation to disclose all or any portion of the Participant Register to any Person (including the identity of any Participant or any

information relating to a Participant's interest in any Commitments, Loans or its other obligations under any Loan Document) except to the extent that such disclosure is necessary to establish that such Commitment, Loan or other obligation is in registered form under Section 5f.103-1(c) of the United States Treasury Regulations. The entries in the Participant Register shall be conclusive absent manifest error, and such Bank, each of the Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries that is a party to any Loan Document, and the Administrative Agent shall treat each person whose name is recorded in the Participant Register pursuant to the terms hereof as the owner of such participation for all purposes of this Agreement, notwithstanding notice to the contrary.

(c) Except as set forth below, the Banks shall be permitted to assign all or a portion of their Loans and Commitments to one or more financial institutions ("Purchasing Banks") with the consent, not to be unreasonably withheld, of (x) the Borrower; provided that, (A) no consent of the Borrower shall be required if (i) the Purchasing Bank is a Bank or a Bank Affiliate or (ii) an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, and (B) the Borrower shall be deemed to have consented to such assignment unless it shall have notified the Administrative Agent of its refusal to give such consent within 10 Business Days following the Borrower's receipt from the transferor Bank of a fully-completed Assignment and Acceptance (as defined below) with respect to such assignment, delivered in accordance with Section 10.2), and (y) the Administrative Agent, unless the assignment is from a Bank to its Bank Affiliate, pursuant to an Assignment and Acceptance, substantially in the form of Exhibit C (an "Assignment and Acceptance"), executed by such Purchasing Bank and such transferor Bank (and by the Borrower and the Administrative Agent, as applicable) and delivered to the Administrative Agent for its acceptance and recording in the Register; provided that (i) such Purchasing Bank is a "qualified purchaser" as defined under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, (ii) each such sale shall be of a uniform, and not a varying, percentage of all rights and obligations under and in respect of the Commitment or, if the Commitment has terminated, the Outstanding Extensions of Credit, in each case, of such Bank, (iii) each such sale shall be in an aggregate amount of not less than \$5,000,000 (or such lesser amount representing the entire Commitment or, if the Commitment has terminated, the Outstanding Extensions of Credit, in each case, of such transferor Bank) if such sale is not to an existing Bank, and (iv) after giving effect to such sale, the transferor Bank shall (to the extent that it continues to have any Commitment or, if the Commitment has terminated, the Outstanding Extensions of Credit hereunder) have a Commitment or, if the Commitment has terminated, the Outstanding Extensions of Credit, in each case, of not less than \$5,000,000, provided that such amounts shall be aggregated in respect of each Bank and its Bank Affiliates, if any. Upon such execution, delivery, acceptance and recording, from and after the effective date determined pursuant to such Assignment and Acceptance (the "Transfer Effective Date"), (i) the Purchasing Bank thereunder shall be a party hereto and, to the extent provided in such Assignment and Acceptance, have the rights and obligations of a Bank hereunder with the Commitments or, if the Commitments have terminated, the Outstanding Extensions of Credit, in each case, as set forth therein and (ii) the transferor Bank thereunder shall, to the extent provided in such Assignment and Acceptance, be released from its obligations under this Agreement (and, in the case of an Assignment and Acceptance covering all or the remaining portion of a transferor Bank's rights and obligations under this Agreement, such transferor Bank shall cease to be a party hereto). Such Assignment and Acceptance shall be deemed to amend this Agreement to the extent, and only to the extent, necessary to reflect the addition of such Purchasing Bank and the resulting adjustment of Loan

Percentages arising from the purchase by such Purchasing Bank of all or a portion of the rights and obligations of such transferor Bank under this Agreement. On or prior to the Transfer Effective Date determined pursuant to such Assignment and Acceptance, (i) appropriate entries shall be made in the accounts of the transferor Bank and the Register evidencing such assignment and releasing the Borrower from any and all obligations to the transferor Bank in respect of the assigned Loan or Loans and (ii) appropriate entries evidencing the assigned Loan or Loans shall be made in the accounts of the Purchasing Bank and the Register as required by Section 3.1 hereof. In the event that any Notes have been issued in respect of the assigned Loan or Loans, such Notes shall be marked "cancelled" and surrendered by the transferor Bank to the Administrative Agent for return to the Borrower.

(d) The Administrative Agent shall maintain at its address referred to in Section 10.2(a) a copy of each Assignment and Acceptance delivered to it and a register (the "Register") for the recordation of the names and addresses of the Banks and the Commitments of, and principal amount of the Loans owing to, each Bank from time to time. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the entries in the Register shall be conclusive, in the absence of manifest error, and the Borrower, the Administrative Agent and the Banks may (and, in the case of any Loan or other obligations hereunder not evidenced by a Note, shall) treat, each Person whose name is recorded in the Register pursuant to the terms hereof as the owner of a Loan or other obligation hereunder as the owner thereof for all purposes of this Agreement and the other Loan Documents, notwithstanding any notice to the contrary. Any assignment of any Loan or other obligation hereunder shall be effective only upon appropriate entries with respect thereto being made in the Register. The Register shall be available for inspection by the Borrower or any Bank at any reasonable time and from time to time upon reasonable prior notice.

(e) Upon its receipt of an Assignment and Acceptance executed by a transferor Bank and Purchasing Bank (and, in the case of a Purchasing Bank that is not then a Bank Affiliate, by the Borrower and the Administrative Agent), together with payment to the Administrative Agent of a registration and processing fee of \$3,500, the Administrative Agent shall promptly accept such Assignment and Acceptance on the Transfer Effective Date determined pursuant thereto, record the information contained therein in the Register and give notice of such acceptance and recordation to the Banks and the Borrower.

(f) Any Bank may at any time pledge or assign a security interest in all or any portion of its rights under this Agreement to secure obligations of such Bank, including any pledge or assignment to secure obligations to a Federal Reserve Bank or other central banking authority, and this Section shall not apply to any such pledge or assignment of a security interest; provided that no such pledge or assignment of a security interest shall release a Bank from any of its obligations hereunder or substitute any such pledgee or Purchasing Bank for such Bank as a party hereto. The Borrower hereby agrees that, upon request of any Bank at any time and from time to time after the Borrower has made its initial Borrowing hereunder, the Borrower shall provide to such Bank, at the Borrower's own expense, a promissory note, substantially in the form of Exhibit D evidencing the Loans owing to such Bank.

SECTION 10.7. Setoff. In addition to any rights and remedies of the Banks provided by law, if any Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing, each Bank shall have the right, to the fullest extent permitted by law, without prior notice to the Borrower (any such notice

being expressly waived by the Borrower to the extent permitted by applicable law), to set off and apply any and all deposits (general or special, time or demand, provisional or final), in any currency, and any other credits, indebtedness or claims, in any currency, in each case whether direct or indirect, absolute or contingent, matured or unmatured, at any time held or owing by such Bank or any branch or agency thereof to or for the credit or the account of the Borrower against any of and all the obligations of the Borrower existing under this Agreement which are then due and payable. Each Bank agrees promptly to notify the Borrower and the Administrative Agent after any such setoff and application made by such Bank, provided that the failure to give such notice shall not affect the validity of such setoff and application.

**SECTION 10.8. Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed by one or more of the parties to this Agreement on any number of separate counterparts, and all of said counterparts taken together shall be deemed to constitute one and the same instrument. A set of the copies of this Agreement signed by all the parties shall be maintained with Borrower and the Administrative Agent. Delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page of (x) this Agreement, (y) any other Loan Document and/or (z) any document, amendment, approval, consent, information, notice (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any notice delivered pursuant to Section 10.2), certificate, request, statement, disclosure or authorization related to this Agreement, any other Loan Document and/or the transactions contemplated hereby and/or thereby (each an "Ancillary Document") that is an Electronic Signature transmitted by telecopy, emailed pdf, or any other electronic means that reproduces an image of an actual executed signature page shall be effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart of this Agreement, such other Loan Document or such Ancillary Document, as applicable. The words "execution," "signed," "signature," "delivery," and words of like import in or relating to this Agreement, any other Loan Document and/or any Ancillary Document shall be deemed to include Electronic Signatures, deliveries or the keeping of records in any electronic form (including deliveries by telecopy, emailed pdf, or any other electronic means that reproduces an image of an actual executed signature page), each of which shall be of the same legal effect, validity or enforceability as a manually executed signature, physical delivery thereof or the use of a paper-based recordkeeping system, as the case may be; provided that nothing herein shall require the Administrative Agent to accept Electronic Signatures in any form or format without its prior written consent and pursuant to procedures approved by it; provided, further, without limiting the foregoing, (i) to the extent the Administrative Agent has agreed to accept any Electronic Signature, the parties hereto shall be entitled to rely on such Electronic Signature purportedly given by or on behalf of any other party hereto believed by it to be genuine and correct and to have been signed, sent or made by the proper Person or Persons without further verification thereof and without any further obligation to review the appearance or form of any such Electronic signature and (ii) upon the request of the Administrative Agent or any Bank, any Electronic Signature shall be promptly followed by a manually executed counterpart. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, each party hereto hereby (i) agrees that, for all purposes, including without limitation, in connection with any workout, restructuring, enforcement of remedies, bankruptcy proceedings or litigation among the Administrative Agent, the Banks, and the Borrower, Electronic Signatures transmitted by telecopy, emailed pdf, or any other electronic means that reproduces an image of an actual executed signature page and/or any electronic images of this Agreement, any other Loan Document and/or any Ancillary Document shall have the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as any paper original, and (ii) each of the parties hereto may, at its option, create one or more copies of this Agreement, any other Loan Document

and/or any Ancillary Document in the form of an imaged electronic record in any format, which shall be deemed created in the ordinary course of such Person's business, and destroy the original paper document (and all such electronic records shall be considered an original for all purposes and shall have the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as a paper record).

**SECTION 10.9. Severability.** Any provision of this Agreement that is prohibited or unenforceable in any jurisdiction shall, as to such jurisdiction, be ineffective to the extent of such prohibition or unenforceability without invalidating the remaining provisions hereof, and any such prohibition or unenforceability in any jurisdiction shall not invalidate or render unenforceable such provision in any other jurisdiction.

**SECTION 10.10. Integration.** This Agreement and the other Loan Documents represent the agreement of the Borrower, the Administrative Agent and the Banks with respect to the subject matter hereof, and there are no promises, undertakings, representations or warranties by the Borrower, the Administrative Agent or any Bank relative to the subject matter hereof not expressly set forth or referred to herein or in the other Loan Documents.

**SECTION 10.11. GOVERNING LAW.**

(a) THIS AGREEMENT AND THE OTHER LOAN DOCUMENTS SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED AND INTERPRETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

(b) Notwithstanding anything in Section 10.11(a) to the contrary, nothing in this Agreement or in any Note or any other Loan Documents shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of any rights which any Bank may have under applicable federal law relating to the amount of interest which any Bank may contract for, take, receive or charge in respect of any Loans, including any right to take, receive, reserve and charge interest at the rate allowed by the laws of the state where such Bank is located. To the extent that Texas law is applicable to the determination of the Highest Lawful Rate, the Banks and the Borrower agree that (i) if Chapter 303 of the Texas Finance Code, as amended, is applicable to such determination, the weekly rate ceiling as computed from time to time shall apply, provided that, to the extent permitted by such Article, the Administrative Agent may from time to time by notice to the Borrower revise the election of such interest rate ceiling as such ceiling affects the then current or future balances of the Loans; and (ii) the provisions of Chapter 346 of the Texas Finance Code, as amended shall not apply to this Agreement or any Note issued hereunder.

**SECTION 10.12. WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL.** EACH PARTY HERETO HEREBY IRREVOCABLY WAIVES, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, ANY RIGHT IT MAY HAVE TO A TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDING DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY OTHER LOAN DOCUMENT OR THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED HEREBY OR THEREBY (WHETHER BASED ON CONTRACT, TORT OR ANY OTHER THEORY). EACH PARTY HERETO (A) CERTIFIES THAT NO REPRESENTATIVE, AGENT OR ATTORNEY OF ANY OTHER PERSON HAS REPRESENTED, EXPRESSLY OR OTHERWISE, THAT SUCH OTHER PERSON WOULD NOT, IN THE EVENT OF LITIGATION, SEEK TO ENFORCE THE FOREGOING WAIVER

AND (B) ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IT AND THE OTHER PARTIES HERETO HAVE BEEN INDUCED TO ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT AND THE OTHER LOAN DOCUMENTS BY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE MUTUAL WAIVERS AND CERTIFICATIONS IN THIS SECTION.

SECTION 10.13. Submission to Jurisdiction; Waivers. Each party to this Agreement hereby irrevocably and unconditionally:

(a) submits for itself and its property in any legal action or proceeding relating to this Agreement and the other Loan Documents to which it is a party, or for recognition and enforcement of any judgment in respect thereof, to the exclusive general jurisdiction of the Courts of the State of New York sitting in New York County, the courts of the United States of America for the Southern District of New York, and appellate courts from any thereof;

(b) consents that any such action or proceeding may be brought in such courts and waives any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action or proceeding in any such court or that such action or proceeding was brought in an inconvenient court and agrees not to plead or claim the same;

(c) agrees that service of process in any such action or proceeding may be effected by mailing a copy thereof by registered or certified mail (or any substantially similar form of mail), postage prepaid to such party at its address set forth in Section 10.2 or at such other address of which the Administrative Agent shall have been notified pursuant thereto; and

(d) agrees that nothing herein shall affect the right to effect service of process in any other manner permitted by law or shall limit the right to sue in any other jurisdiction.

SECTION 10.14. Acknowledgments. The Borrower hereby acknowledges that:

(a) it has been advised by counsel in the negotiation, execution and delivery of this Agreement and the other Loan Documents;

(b) neither the Administrative Agent nor any Bank has any fiduciary relationship with or duty to the Borrower arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or any of the other Loan Documents, and the relationship between the Administrative Agent and the Banks, on one hand, and the Borrower, on the other hand, in connection herewith or therewith is solely that of debtor and creditor; and

(c) no joint venture exists among the Banks or among the Borrower and the Banks.

SECTION 10.15. Limitation on Agreements. All agreements between the Borrower, the Administrative Agent or any Bank, whether now existing or hereafter arising and whether written or oral, are hereby expressly limited so that in no contingency or event whatsoever, whether by reason of demand being made in respect of an amount due under any Loan Document or otherwise, shall the amount paid, or agreed to be paid, to the Administrative Agent or any Bank for the use, forbearance, or detention of the money to be loaned under this Agreement, any Notes or any other Loan Document or otherwise or for the payment or performance of any covenant or obligation contained herein or in any other Loan Document exceed the Highest



Lawful Rate. If, as a result of any circumstances whatsoever, fulfillment of any provision hereof or of any of such documents, at the time performance of such provision shall be due, shall involve transcending the limit of validity prescribed by applicable usury law, then, ipso facto, the obligation to be fulfilled shall be reduced to the limit of such validity, and if, from any such circumstance, the Administrative Agent or any Bank shall ever receive interest or anything that might be deemed interest under applicable law that would exceed the Highest Lawful Rate, such amount that would be excessive interest shall be applied to the reduction of the principal amount owing on account of such Bank's Loans or the amounts owing on other obligations of the Borrower to the Administrative Agent or any Bank under any Loan Document and not to the payment of interest, or if such excessive interest exceeds the unpaid principal balance of such Bank's Loans and the amounts owing on other obligations of the Borrower to the Administrative Agent or any Bank under any Loan Document, as the case may be, such excess shall be refunded to the Borrower. All sums paid or agreed to be paid to the Administrative Agent or any Bank for the use, forbearance or detention of the indebtedness of the Borrower to the Administrative Agent or any Bank shall, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, be amortized, prorated, allocated and spread throughout the full term of such indebtedness until payment in full of the principal (including the period of any renewal or extension thereof) so that the interest on account of such indebtedness shall not exceed the Highest Lawful Rate. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any Loan Document, it is understood and agreed that if at any time the rate of interest that accrues on the outstanding principal balance of any Loan shall exceed the Highest Lawful Rate, the rate of interest that accrues on the outstanding principal balance of any Loan shall be limited to the Highest Lawful Rate, but any subsequent reductions in the rate of interest that accrues on the outstanding principal balance of any Loan shall not reduce the rate of interest that accrues on the outstanding principal balance of any Loan below the Highest Lawful Rate until the total amount of interest accrued on the outstanding principal balance of any Loan equals the amount of interest that would have accrued if such interest rate had at all times been in effect. The terms and provisions of this Section 10.15 shall control and supersede every other provision of all Loan Documents.

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

purposes of this Agreement, except for the purposes of any provision hereof that by its terms survives the termination of this Agreement and the payment of the amounts payable hereunder.

**SECTION 10.17. Confidentiality.** Each of the Banks and the Administrative Agent agrees to maintain, and to use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause any third party recipient of the information described in this Section 10.17 to maintain, any information delivered or made available by the Borrower to it (including any information obtained pursuant to Section 7.1), confidential from anyone other than Persons employed or retained by such party who are or are expected to become engaged in evaluating, approving, structuring or administering the transactions contemplated hereunder; provided that nothing shall prevent any Bank or the Administrative Agent from disclosing such information (i) to any other Bank or any Affiliate of any Bank, (ii) pursuant to subpoena or upon the order of any court or administrative agency having jurisdiction over such Bank or the Administrative Agent, as the case may be, (iii) upon the request or demand of any Governmental Authority or self-regulatory body, in each case, having jurisdiction over such Bank or the Administrative Agent, as the case may be, (iv) if such information has been publicly disclosed (other than by reason of disclosure by any Bank or the Administrative Agent in breach of its obligations under this Section 10.17), (v) to the extent reasonably required in connection with any litigation to which either the Administrative Agent, any Bank, the Borrower or their respective Affiliates may be a party relating to this Agreement or any other Loan Document, (vi) to the extent reasonably required in connection with the exercise of any remedy hereunder, (vii) to the Administrative Agent's or such Bank's, as the case may be, legal counsel, independent auditors and other professional advisors and agents involved in the administration of the Loans hereunder, (viii) to market data collectors, such as league table, or other service providers to the lending industry, in respect of information regarding the closing date, size, type, purpose of, and parties to, this Agreement, or (ix) to any actual or proposed Participant, Purchasing Bank, hedge counterparty in respect of this Agreement or pledgee (each, a "Transferee") that has agreed in writing to be bound by the provisions of this Section 10.17 or provisions at least as restrictive as those in this Section 10.17. To the extent permitted by applicable law, in the event that any Bank or the Administrative Agent is legally requested or required to disclose any confidential information pursuant to clause (ii), (iii) (unless such request (X) is from a bank regulatory agency or in connection with an examination of a Bank's records by bank examiners and (Y) does not target or impact Borrower or any of its Subsidiaries) or (v) of this Section 10.17, such party shall promptly notify the Borrower of such request or requirement prior to disclosure so that Borrower may seek an appropriate protective order and/or waive compliance with the terms of this Agreement. If, however, in the opinion of counsel for such party, such party is nonetheless, in the absence of such order or waiver, compelled to disclose such confidential information or otherwise stand liable for contempt or suffer possible censure or other penalty or liability, then such party may disclose such confidential information without liability to the Borrower; provided, however, that such party will use its commercially reasonable efforts to minimize the disclosure of such information. Subject to the exceptions above to disclosure of information, each of the Banks and the Administrative Agent agrees that it shall not publish, publicize, or otherwise make public any information regarding this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby without the written consent of the Borrower, in its sole discretion.

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

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

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

[Signature Pages Follow]

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

CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.

By: /s/ Jacqueline M. Richert  
Name: Jacqueline M. Richert  
Title: Vice President, Investor  
Relations & Treasurer

CERC Term Loan Agreement – Signature Page

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MIZUHO BANK, LTD., as Administrative  
Agent and as a Bank

By: /s/ Edward Sacks  
Name: Edward Sacks  
Title: Authorized Signatory

CERC Term Loan Agreement – Signature Page

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U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,  
as a Bank

By: /s/ James O'Shaughnessy  
Name: James O'Shaughnessy  
Title: Vice President

CERC Term Loan Agreement – Signature Page

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TD BANK, N.A., as a Bank

By: /s/ Bernadette Collins  
Name: Bernadette Collins  
Title: Senior Vice President

CERC Term Loan Agreement – Signature Page

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THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA, as a Bank

By: /s/ David Dewar  
Name: David Dewar  
Title: Director

CERC Term Loan Agreement – Signature Page

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TRUIST BANK, as a Bank

By: /s/ Catherine Strickland  
Name: Catherine Strickland  
Title: Vice President

CERC Term Loan Agreement – Signature Page

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**SCHEDULE 1.1**

**SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS AND ADDRESSES**

<b>Names and Address of Banks</b>	<b>Aggregate Commitment</b>
Mizuho Bank, Ltd. Harborside Financial Center Jersey City, NJ 07311-4098 Attn: Amy Cho Telecopy: 201-626-9262 amy.cho@mizuhogroup.com / lau_agent@mizuhogroup.com	\$130,000,000
U.S. Bank National Association Charlotte DCS Office 214 N Tryon Street, 35th Floor Charlotte, NC 28202-1078 Attn: James O'Shaughnessy Tel: 705-335-6828 james.oshaughnessy@usbank.com	\$130,000,000
TD Bank, N.A. 1 Vanderbilt Avenue New York, NY 10022 Attn: Paul Yoon & Thomas Casey Tel: 212-827-7894 / 212-827-2786 Telecopy: 212-827-7617 Paul.Yoon@tdsecurities.com / Thomas.Casey@tdsecurities.com / tdbnadistributionlist@tdsecurities.com	\$80,000,000
The Bank of Nova Scotia 250 Vesey Street, 23rd Floor New York, NY 10281 Attn: Sean Riley Tel: 212-225-5488 sean.riley@scotiabank.com	\$80,000,000
Truist Bank 3333 Peachtree Road NE Atlanta, GA 30326 Attn: Catherine Strickland catherine.strickland@truist.com	\$80,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500,000,000</b>

CERC Term Loan Agreement – Schedule 1.1

**SCHEDULE 6.1(p)**

**SIGNIFICANT SUBSIDIARIES**

Significant Subsidiaries

Indiana Gas Company, Inc.

Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, LLC

CERC Term Loan Agreement – Schedule 6.1(p)

**EXHIBIT A**

**FORM OF  
NOTICE OF BORROWING**

Date: February [●], 2023

Mizuho Bank, Ltd.,  
as Administrative Agent for the  
Banks parties to the Credit  
Agreement (as defined below)  
Harborside Financial Center  
Jersey City, NJ 07311-4098  
Attention: Amy Cho

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the Term Loan Agreement, to be dated on or about February 16, 2023 (as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Term Loan Agreement"), among CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. (the "Borrower"), a Delaware corporation, the banks and other financial institutions from time to time parties thereto (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"). Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings assigned to such terms in the Term Loan Agreement. The undersigned hereby gives you notice pursuant to Section 2.2 of the Term Loan Agreement that it requests a Borrowing under the Term Loan Agreement and, in that connection, sets forth below the terms on which such Borrowing is requested to be made.

- (A) Borrowing Date (which is a Business Day): \_\_\_\_\_
- (B) Principal Amount of Loans:<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- (C) Interest rate basis:<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- [(D) Interest Period and the last day thereof:<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_]

The Borrower is delivering to the Administrative Agent this Notice of Borrowing requesting Loans prior to execution of the Term Loan Agreement and the Closing Date. The undersigned acknowledges that (a) in order to accommodate the foregoing request, the Banks are making funding arrangements for value on the requested Borrowing Date (such date, the "Requested Date"), (b) there can be no assurance that the Closing Date will occur on the

<sup>1</sup> Not less than (a) \$1,000,000 for ABR Loans and (b) \$5,000,000 for SOFR Loans, and in integral multiples of (x) \$500,000 in excess thereof in the case of ABR Loans and (y) \$1,000,000 in excess thereof in the case of SOFR Loans.

<sup>2</sup> SOFR Loan or ABR Loan.

<sup>3</sup> To be inserted only for SOFR Loans and to have a duration of one, three or six months (or such other period as may be available to all of the Banks), and to end not later than the Termination Date.

2

Requested Date, (c) the Banks will not make such Loans unless the Closing Date has occurred and (d) if the Closing Date does not occur on or before the Requested Date, the Banks may sustain funding losses as a result of such failure to close on such Requested Date.

In order to induce the Banks to make the funding arrangements necessary to make the requested Loans, the Borrower agrees that Section 3.7 and Section 4.7 of the Term Loan Agreement shall apply with respect to this Notice of Borrowing (regardless of whether the Closing Date occurs or the Term Loan Agreement ever becomes effective).

By each of the delivery of this Notice of Borrowing and the acceptance of any or all of the Loans made by the Banks in response to this request, the undersigned shall be deemed to have made the representations and warranties on the date hereof as to the matters specified in paragraphs (j) and (k) of Section 5.1 of the Term Loan Agreement.

This Notice of Borrowing shall in all respects be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the law of the State of New York.

*[Signature Page Follows]*

3

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Notice of  
Borrowing as of the date first set forth above.

Very truly yours,

CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES  
CORP.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

**EXHIBIT B**

**FORM OF  
NOTICE OF INTEREST CONVERSION/CONTINUATION**

To: Mizuho Bank, Ltd., in its capacity as Administrative Agent under that certain Term Loan Agreement, dated as of February 16, 2023 (as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Term Loan Agreement"; capitalized terms defined therein being used herein as so defined), among CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. (the "Borrower"), the banks and other financial institutions from time to time parties thereto and the Administrative Agent, among others.

Pursuant to Section 3.6 of the Term Loan Agreement, this Notice of Interest Conversion/Continuation represents the Borrower's election to [insert one or more of the following]:

1. Convert \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in aggregate principal amount of SOFR Loans with a current Interest Period ending on \_\_\_\_\_, to ABR Loans on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Convert \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in aggregate principal amount of ABR Loans to SOFR Loans on \_\_\_\_\_. The initial Interest Period for such SOFR Loans is to be a period of \_\_\_\_\_ [months]<sup>1</sup>.
3. Convert \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in aggregate principal amount of SOFR Loans with a current Interest Period ending on \_\_\_\_\_, to SOFR Loans on \_\_\_\_\_. The Interest Period for such SOFR Loans is to be a period of \_\_\_\_\_ [months]<sup>2</sup>.
4. Continue \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in aggregate principal amount of SOFR Loans with a current Interest Period ending on \_\_\_\_\_ as SOFR Loans. The Interest Period for SOFR Loans is to be a period of \_\_\_\_\_ [months]<sup>3</sup>.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

<sup>1</sup> To have a duration of one, three or six months (or such other period as is available to all of the Banks), and to end not later than the Termination Date.

<sup>2</sup> To have a duration of one, three or six months (or such other period as is available to all of the Banks), and to end not later than the Termination Date.

<sup>3</sup> To have a duration of one, three or six months (or such other period as is available to all of the Banks), and to end not later than the Termination Date.

**EXHIBIT C**

**FORM OF  
ASSIGNMENT AND ACCEPTANCE**

Reference is made to the Term Loan Agreement, dated as of February 16, 2023 (as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Term Loan Agreement"), among CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. (the "Borrower"), the banks and other financial institutions from time to time parties thereto, and MIZUHO BANK, LTD., as administrative agent (in such capacity, the "Administrative Agent"). Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Term Loan Agreement.

The Assignor identified on Schedule I hereto (the "Assignor") and the Assignee identified on Schedule I hereto (the "Assignee") agree as follows:

1. The Assignor hereby irrevocably sells and assigns to the Assignee without recourse to the Assignor, and the Assignee hereby irrevocably purchases and assumes from the Assignor without recourse to the Assignor, as of the Effective Date (as defined below), the interest described in Schedule I hereto (the "Assigned Interest") in and to the Assignor's rights and obligations under the Term Loan Agreement with respect to the term loan facility contained in the Term Loan Agreement as is set forth on Schedule I hereto (the "Assigned Facility"), in a principal amount for the Assigned Facility as set forth on Schedule I hereto.
2. The Assignor (a) makes no representation or warranty and assumes no responsibility with respect to any statements, warranties or representations made in or in connection with the Term Loan Agreement or with respect to the execution, legality, validity, enforceability, genuineness, sufficiency or value of the Term Loan Agreement, any other Loan Document or any other instrument or document furnished pursuant thereto, other than that the Assignor is the legal and beneficial owner of the interest being assigned and that it has not created any adverse claim upon the interest being assigned by it hereunder and that such interest is free and clear of any such adverse claim; (b) makes no representation or warranty and assumes no responsibility with respect to the financial condition of the Borrower, any of its Subsidiaries or any other obligor or the performance or observance by the Borrower, any of its Subsidiaries or any other obligor of any of their respective obligations under the Term Loan Agreement or any other Loan Document or any other instrument or document furnished pursuant hereto or thereto; and (c) attaches any Notes held by it evidencing the Assigned Facility and (i) requests that the Administrative Agent, upon request by the Assignee, exchange the attached Notes for a new Note or Notes payable to the Assignee and (ii) if the Assignor has retained any interest in the Assigned Facility, requests that the Administrative Agent exchange the attached Notes for a new Note or Notes payable to the Assignor, in each case in amounts which reflect the assignment being made hereby (and after giving effect to any other assignments which have become effective on the Effective Date).
3. The Assignee (a) represents and warrants that (i) it is legally authorized to enter into this Assignment and Acceptance, (ii) it is a "qualified purchaser," as such term is defined under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended and (iii) [it is not an Affected Financial Institution] [it is an Affected Financial Institution]; (b) confirms that it has received a copy of the



Term Loan Agreement, together with copies of the financial statements delivered pursuant to Section 6.1(m) thereof and such other documents and information as it has deemed appropriate to make its own credit analysis and decision to enter into this Assignment and Acceptance; (c) agrees that it will, independently and without reliance upon the Assignor, the Administrative Agent 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 decisions in taking or not taking action under the Term Loan Agreement, the other Loan Documents or any other instrument or document furnished pursuant hereto or thereto; (d) appoints and authorizes the Administrative Agent to take such action as agent on its behalf and to exercise such powers and discretion under the Term Loan Agreement, the other Loan Documents or any other instrument or document furnished pursuant hereto or thereto as are delegated to the Administrative Agent by the terms thereof, together with such powers as are incidental thereto; and (e) agrees that it will be bound by the provisions of the Term Loan Agreement and will perform in accordance with its terms all the obligations which by the terms of the Term Loan Agreement are required to be performed by it as a Bank including its obligation pursuant to Section 4.3 of the Term Loan Agreement.

4. The effective date of this Assignment and Acceptance shall be the Effective Date of Assignment described in Schedule 1 hereto (the "Effective Date"). Following the execution of this Assignment and Acceptance, it will be delivered to the Administrative Agent for acceptance by it and recording by the Administrative Agent pursuant to the Term Loan Agreement, effective as of the Effective Date (which shall not, unless otherwise agreed to by the Administrative Agent, be earlier than five Business Days after the date of such acceptance and recording by the Administrative Agent).

5. Upon such acceptance and recording, from and after the Effective Date, the Administrative Agent shall make all payments in respect of the Assigned Interest (including payments of principal, interest, fees and other amounts) to the Assignee whether such amounts have accrued prior to the Effective Date or accrue subsequent to the Effective Date. The Assignor and the Assignee shall make all appropriate adjustments in payments by the Administrative Agent for periods prior to the Effective Date or with respect to the making of this assignment directly between themselves.

6. From and after the Effective Date, (a) the Assignee shall be a party to the Term Loan Agreement and, to the extent provided in this Assignment and Acceptance, have the rights and obligations of a Bank thereunder and under the other Loan Documents and shall be bound by the provisions thereof and (b) the Assignor shall, to the extent provided in this Assignment and Acceptance, relinquish its rights and be released from its obligations under the Term Loan Agreement.

7. This Assignment and Acceptance shall be governed by, and construed and interpreted in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Assignment and Acceptance to be executed as of the date first above written by their respective duly authorized officers on Schedule 1 hereto.

Schedule I  
to Assignment and Acceptance  
relating to the Term Loan Agreement, dated as of February 16, 2023,  
among  
CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.,  
the Banks from time to time parties thereto,  
and  
Mizuho Bank, Ltd., as Administrative Agent, among others

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Name of Assignor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Assignee: \_\_\_\_\_ [, which is a [Bank] [Bank Affiliate]]

Effective Date of Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Assigned Facility</u>	<u>Principal</u> <u>Amount Assigned</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Loan Percentage Assigned</u> *
	\$ _____	____.____%

[NAME OF ASSIGNEE]

[NAME OF ASSIGNOR]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:  
Title:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:  
Title:

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<sup>1</sup> To be not less than (i) \$5,000,000 or (ii) an amount representing the Assignor's entire Commitment or, if the Commitment has terminated, Outstanding Extensions of Credit.

\* Calculate the Loan Percentage that is assigned to at least 15 decimal places and show as a percentage of the aggregate Commitments (or, if the Commitments have terminated, Outstanding Extensions of Credit) of all Banks.

2

[Consented To and] Accepted for  
Recordation:

MIZUHO BANK, LTD.,  
as Administrative Agent

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

[Consented To:

CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES  
CORP.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:]

**EXHIBIT D****FORM OF NOTE**

THIS NOTE (THIS "NOTE") AND THE OBLIGATIONS REPRESENTED HEREBY MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED EXCEPT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THE TERM LOAN AGREEMENT REFERRED TO BELOW. TRANSFERS OF THIS NOTE AND THE OBLIGATIONS REPRESENTED HEREBY MUST BE RECORDED IN THE REGISTER MAINTAINED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF SUCH TERM LOAN AGREEMENT.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

New York, New York  
[\_\_\_\_], 2023

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, the undersigned, CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. (the "Borrower"), hereby unconditionally promises to pay to \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Bank") at the office of Mizuho Bank, Ltd. located at Mizuho Bank, Ltd., Harborside Financial Center, Jersey City, NJ 07311-4098, Attention: Amy Cho, in lawful money of the United States of America and in immediately available funds, the principal amount of (a) \_\_\_\_\_ DOLLARS (\$ \_\_\_\_\_), or, if less, (b) the aggregate unpaid principal amount of all Loans made by the Bank to the Borrower pursuant to the terms of the Term Loan Agreement (as defined below), which amount shall be due and payable on such date or dates as are determined in accordance with the terms of the Term Loan Agreement. The Borrower further agrees to pay interest in like money on the unpaid principal amount hereof pursuant to the terms specified in the Term Loan Agreement. Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Term Loan Agreement.

The holder of this Note is authorized to indorse on the schedules annexed hereto and made a part hereof or on a continuation thereof which shall be attached hereto and made a part hereof the date, the Type and amount of each Loan made pursuant to the Term Loan Agreement and the date and amount of each payment or prepayment of principal thereof, each continuation thereof, each conversion of all or a portion thereof to another Type and, in the case of SOFR Loans, the length of each Interest Period with respect thereto. Each such indorsement shall constitute prima facie evidence of the accuracy of the information indorsed. The failure to make any such indorsement or any error in any such indorsement shall not affect the obligations of the Borrower in respect of any Loan.

This Note (a) is one of the Notes referred to in the Term Loan Agreement dated as of February 16, 2023 (as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Term Loan Agreement"), among the Borrower, the banks and other financial institutions from time to time parties thereto, and Mizuho Bank, Ltd., as administrative agent, (b) is subject to the provisions of the Term Loan Agreement and (c) is subject to optional prepayment in whole or in part as provided in the Term Loan Agreement.

Upon the occurrence and during the continuation of any one or more of the Events of Default, all principal and all accrued interest then remaining unpaid on this Note shall become, or may be declared to be, immediately due and payable, all as provided in the Term Loan Agreement.

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All parties now and hereafter liable with respect to this Note, whether maker, principal, surety, guarantor, indorser or otherwise, hereby waive presentment, demand, protest and all other notices of any kind.

**NOTWITHSTANDING ANYTHING TO THE CONTRARY CONTAINED HEREIN OR IN THE TERM LOAN AGREEMENT, THIS NOTE MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED EXCEPT PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGISTRATION AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 10.6 OF THE TERM LOAN AGREEMENT.**

*[Signature Page Follows]*

3

**THIS NOTE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED AND  
INTERPRETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW  
YORK.**

CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

Schedule A

### LOANS, CONVERSIONS AND REPAYMENTS OF ABR LOANS

[illegible]

Date	Amount of ABR Loans	Amount Converted to ABR Loans	Amount of Principal of ABR Loans Repaid	Amount of ABR Loans Converted to SOFR Loans	Unpaid Principal Balance of ABR Loans	Notation Made By



Schedule B  
to Note

LOANS, CONTINUATIONS, CONVERSIONS AND REPAYMENTS OF SOFR LOANS

Date	Amount of SOFR Loans	Amount Converted to SOFR Loans	Interest Period and Term SOFR Rate with Respect Thereto	Amount of Principal of SOFR Loans Repaid	Amount of SOFR Loans Converted to ABR Loans	Unpaid Principal Balance of SOFR Loans	Notation Made By

Date	Amount of SOFR Loans	Amount Converted to SOFR Loans	Interest Period and Term SOFR Rate with Respect Thereto	Amount of Principal of SOFR Loans Repaid	Amount of SOFR Loans Converted to ABR Loans	Unpaid Principal Balance of SOFR Loans	Notation Made By

**EXHIBIT E-1**

**FORM OF  
U.S. TAX CERTIFICATE**

(For Non-U.S. Banks That For U.S. Federal Income Tax Purposes Are Neither (i) Partnerships  
Nor (ii) Disregarded Entities Whose Tax Owner is a Partnership)

Reference is made to the Term Loan Agreement dated as of February 16, 2023 (as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Term Loan Agreement"), among CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. (the "Borrower"), the banks and other financial institutions from time to time parties thereto (individually, a "Bank" and, collectively, the "Banks"), and MIZUHO BANK, LTD., as administrative agent (in such capacity, the "Administrative Agent").

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 4.3 of the Term Loan Agreement, the undersigned (or if the Bank is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the owner of such Bank for U.S. federal income tax purposes ("Tax Owner")) hereby certifies that (i) the Bank is the sole record owner of the Loan(s) (as well as any Note(s) evidencing such Loan(s)) in respect of which it is providing this certificate, (ii) the Bank (or, if the Bank is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, its Tax Owner) is the sole beneficial owner of such loan(s) (as well as any Note(s) evidencing such Loan(s)), (iii) the Bank (and, if the Bank is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, its Tax Owner) is not a (A) bank within the meaning of Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code, (B) "10 percent shareholder" of the Borrower within the meaning of Section 871(h)(3)(B) of the Code, or (C) "controlled foreign corporation" related to the Borrower as described in Section 881(c)(3)(C) of the Code and (iv) the payments made with respect to the Loan(s) (as well as any Note(s)) are not effectively connected with the undersigned's (or its Tax Owner's) conduct of a U.S. trade or business.

The undersigned (or its Tax Owner) has furnished the Administrative Agent and the Borrower with a certificate of its non-U.S. Person status on IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, as applicable. By executing this certificate, the undersigned agrees that (i) if the information provided on this certificate changes, the undersigned shall promptly so inform the Borrower and the Administrative Agent and (ii) the undersigned shall have at all times furnished the Borrower and the Administrative Agent with a properly completed and currently effective certificate in either the calendar year in which each payment is to be made to the undersigned, or in either of the two calendar years preceding such payment.

Unless otherwise defined herein, terms defined in the Term Loan Agreement and used herein shall have the meanings given to them in the Term Loan Agreement.

[NAME OF BANK] (the "Bank")

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title: [Tax Owner, if the Bank is a disregarded entity]

**EXHIBIT E-2**

**FORM OF  
U.S. TAX CERTIFICATE**

(For Non-U.S. Banks That For U.S. Federal Income Tax Purposes Are (i) Partnerships or (ii) Disregarded Entities Whose Tax Owner is a Partnership)

Reference is made to the Term Loan Agreement dated as of February 16, 2023 (as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Term Loan Agreement"), among CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. (the "Borrower"), the banks and other financial institutions from time to time parties thereto (individually, a "Bank" and, collectively, the "Banks"), and MIZUHO BANK, LTD., as administrative agent (in such capacity, the "Administrative Agent").

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 4.3 of the Term Loan Agreement, the undersigned (or if the Bank is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the owner of such Bank for U.S. federal income tax purposes ("Tax Owner")) hereby certifies that (i) the Bank is the sole record owner of the Loan(s) (as well as any Note(s) evidencing such Loan(s)) in respect of which it is providing this certificate, (ii) the Bank's (or its Tax Owner's) partners/members (or the beneficial owners, as defined in Treasury Regulations § 1.1441-1(c)(6), of the payments made to such Bank (or its Tax Owner) under the Term Loan Agreement (the "Beneficial Owners")) are the sole beneficial owners of such Loan(s) (as well as any Note(s) evidencing such Loan(s)), (iii) with respect to the extension of credit pursuant to the Term Loan Agreement, neither the Bank, its Tax Owner (if the Bank is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes) nor any of the Bank's (or its Tax Owner's) partners/members (or the Beneficial Owners) is a bank extending credit pursuant to a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of its trade or business within the meaning of Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code, (iv) none of the Bank's partners/members (or the Beneficial Owners) (and, if the Bank is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, none of its Tax Owner's partners/members) is a "10 percent shareholder" of the Borrower within the meaning of Section 871(h)(3)(B) of the Code, (v) none of the Bank's partners/members (or the Beneficial Owners) (and, if the Bank is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, none of its Tax Owner's partners/members) is a "controlled foreign corporation" related to the Borrower as described in Section 881(c)(3)(C) of the Code, and (vi) the payments made with respect to the Loan(s) (as well as any Note(s)) are not effectively connected with the undersigned's (or its Tax Owner's) partners/members' conduct of a U.S. trade or business (or that of the Beneficial Owners).

The undersigned (or its Tax Owner) has furnished the Administrative Agent and the Borrower with IRS Form W-8IMY accompanied by one of the following forms from each of its (or its Tax Owner's) partners/members claiming the portfolio interest exemption: (i) IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, as applicable, or (ii) IRS Form W-8IMY accompanied by an IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, as applicable, from each of such partner's/member's beneficial owners that is claiming the portfolio interest exemption. By executing this certificate, the undersigned agrees that (i) if the information provided on this certificate changes, the undersigned shall promptly so inform the Borrower and the Administrative Agent and (ii) the undersigned shall have at all times furnished the Borrower and the Administrative Agent with a properly completed and currently effective certificate in either the calendar year in which each payment is to be made to the undersigned, or in either of the two calendar years preceding such payment.

**EXHIBIT E-2**  
**2**

Unless otherwise defined herein, terms defined in the Term Loan Agreement and used herein shall have the meanings given to them in the Term Loan Agreement.

[NAME OF BANK] (the "Bank")

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title: [Tax Owner, if the Bank is a disregarded entity]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

**EXHIBIT E-3**

**FORM OF  
U.S. TAX CERTIFICATE**

(For Non-U.S. Participants That For U.S. Federal Income Tax Purposes Are Neither (i)  
Partnerships Nor (ii) Disregarded Entities Whose Tax Owner is a Partnership)

Reference is made to the Term Loan Agreement dated as of February 16, 2023 (as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Term Loan Agreement"), among CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. (the "Borrower"), the banks and other financial institutions from time to time parties thereto (individually, a "Bank" and, collectively, the "Banks"), and MIZUHO BANK, LTD., as administrative agent (in such capacity, the "Administrative Agent").

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 4.3 of the Term Loan Agreement, the undersigned (or if the Participant is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the owner of such Participant for U.S. federal income tax purposes ("Tax Owner")) hereby certifies that (i) the Participant is the sole record owner of the participation in respect of which it is providing this certificate, (ii) the Participant (or, if the Participant is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, its Tax Owner) is the sole beneficial owner of such participation, (iii) the Participant (and, if the Participant is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, its Tax Owner) is not a (A) bank within the meaning of Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code, (B) "10 percent shareholder" of the Borrower within the meaning of Section 871(h)(3)(B) of the Code, or (C) "controlled foreign corporation" related to the Borrower as described in Section 881(c)(3)(C) of the Code, and (iv) the payments made with respect to the Loan(s) (as well as any Note(s)) are not effectively connected with the undersigned's (or its Tax Owner's) conduct of a U.S. trade or business.

The undersigned (or its Tax Owner) has furnished its selling Bank with a certificate of its non-U.S. Person status on IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, as applicable. By executing this certificate, the undersigned agrees that (i) if the information provided on this certificate changes, the undersigned shall promptly so inform such Bank in writing and (ii) the undersigned shall have at all times furnished such Bank with a properly completed and currently effective certificate in either the calendar year in which each payment is to be made to the undersigned, or in either of the two calendar years preceding such payment.

Unless otherwise defined herein, terms defined in the Term Loan Agreement and used herein shall have the meanings given to them in the Term Loan Agreement.

[NAME OF PARTICIPANT] (the "Participant")

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title: [Tax Owner, if the Participant is a disregarded entity]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

**EXHIBIT E-4**

**FORM OF  
U.S. TAX CERTIFICATE**

(For Non-U.S. Participants That For U.S. Federal Income Tax Purposes Are (i) Partnerships or  
(ii) Disregarded Entities Whose Tax Owner is a Partnership)

Reference is made to the Term Loan Agreement dated as of February 16, 2023 (as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Term Loan Agreement"), among CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. (the "Borrower"), the banks and other financial institutions from time to time parties thereto (individually, a "Bank" and, collectively, the "Banks"), and MIZUHO BANK, LTD., as administrative agent (in such capacity, the "Administrative Agent").

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 4.3 of the Term Loan Agreement, the undersigned (or if the Participant is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the owner of such Participant for U.S. federal income tax purposes ("Tax Owner")) hereby certifies that (i) the Participant is the sole record owner of the participation in respect of which it is providing this certificate, (ii) the Participant's (or its Tax Owner's) partners/members (or the beneficial owners, as defined in Treasury Regulations § 1.1441-1(c)(6), of the payments made to such Participant (or its Tax Owner) under the Term Loan Agreement (the "Beneficial Owners")) are the sole beneficial owners of such participation, (iii) with respect to such participation, neither the undersigned, its Tax Owner (if the Participant is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes) nor any of its (or its Tax Owner's) partners/members (or the Beneficial Owners) is a bank extending credit pursuant to a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of its trade or business within the meaning of Section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code, (iv) none of the Participant's partners/members (or the Beneficial Owners) (and, if the Participant is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, none of its Tax Owner's partners/members) is a "10 percent shareholder" of the Borrower within the meaning of Section 871(h)(3)(B) of the Code, (v) none of the Participant's partners/members (or the Beneficial Owners) (and, if the Participant is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, none of its Tax Owner's partners/members) is a "controlled foreign corporation" related to the Borrower as described in Section 881(c)(3)(C) of the Code, and (vi) the payments made with respect to the Loan(s) (as well as any Note(s)) are not effectively connected with the undersigned's (or its Tax Owner's) partners/members' conduct of a U.S. trade or business (or that of the Beneficial Owners).

The undersigned (or its Tax Owner) has furnished its selling Bank with IRS Form W-8IMY accompanied by one of the following forms from each of its (or its Tax Owner's) partners/members claiming the portfolio interest exemption: (i) IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, as applicable, or (ii) IRS Form W-8IMY accompanied by an IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, as applicable, from each of such partner's/member's beneficial owners that is claiming the portfolio interest exemption. By executing this certificate, the undersigned agrees that (i) if the information provided on this certificate changes, the undersigned shall promptly so inform such Bank and (ii) the undersigned shall have at all times furnished such Bank with a properly completed and currently effective certificate in either the calendar year in which each payment is to be made to the undersigned, or in either of the two calendar years preceding such payment.

Unless otherwise defined herein, terms defined in the Term Loan Agreement and used herein shall have the meanings given to them in the Term Loan Agreement.

**EXHIBIT E-4**

[NAME OF PARTICIPANT] (the "Participant")

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title: [Tax Owner, if the Participant is a disregarded entity]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_





Exhibit 21.1

## SIGNIFICANT SUBSIDIARIES OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

The following subsidiaries are deemed "significant subsidiaries" pursuant to Item 601(b) (21) of Regulation S-K:

Utility Holding, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC, a Texas limited liability company and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., a Delaware corporation and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

CenterPoint Energy Investment Management, Inc., a Delaware corporation and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

Vectren Affiliated Utilities, Inc. an Indiana corporation and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

Vectren LLC, an Indiana limited liability company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vectren Affiliated Utilities, Inc..

Vectren Utility Holdings LLC, an Indiana limited liability company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vectren LLC

Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company, an Indiana corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vectren Utility Holdings LLC (doing business as Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana, Inc.)

Indiana Gas Company, Inc., an Indiana corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.

Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, LLC, an Ohio limited liability company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.

(1) Pursuant to Item 601(b) (21) of Regulation S-K, registrant has omitted the names of subsidiaries, which considered in the aggregate as a single subsidiary, would not constitute a "significant subsidiary" as defined under Rule 1-02(w) of Regulation S-X as of December 31, 2022.

Exhibit 21.2

## SIGNIFICANT SUBSIDIARIES OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.

The following subsidiaries are deemed "significant subsidiaries" pursuant to Item 601(b) (21) of Regulation S-K:

Indiana Gas Company, Inc., an Indiana corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.

Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, LLC, an Ohio limited liability company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.

(1) Pursuant to Item 601(b) (21) of Regulation S-K, registrant has omitted the names of subsidiaries, which considered in the aggregate as a single subsidiary, would not constitute a "significant subsidiary" (as defined under Rule 1-02(w) of Regulation S-X) as of December 31, 2022.

Exhibit 23.2

## CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement Nos. 333-266592, 333-238617, 333-238825 and 333-238844 on Form S-3; Registration Statement Nos. 333-264489, 333-238890, 333-203201, as amended, 333-179310, 333-173660, 333-149757, 333-101202, as amended, 333-115976, as amended, 333-159586, as amended, and 333-105773, as amended, on Form S-8; Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement Nos. 333-32413-99, 333-49333-99, 333-38188-99, 333-60260-99 and 333-98271-99 on Form S-8; and Post-Effective Amendment No. 5 to Registration Statement No. 333-11329-99 on Form S-8 of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. of our report dated February 24, 2021, relating to the financial statements of Enable Midstream Partners, L.P. appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2022.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
February 17, 2023

Exhibit 23.1.1

**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement Nos. 333-266592, 333-238617, 333-238825, and 333-238844 on Form S-3; Registration Statement Nos. 333-264489, 333-238800, 333-203201, 333-179310, 333-173660, 333-149757, 333-101202, 333-115976, 333-159586, and 333-105773 on Form S-8; Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement Nos. 333-32413-99, 333-49333-99, 333-38188-99, 333-60260-99 and 333-98271-99 on Form S-8; and Post-Effective Amendment No. 5 to Registration Statement No. 333-11329-99 on Form S-8 of our reports dated February 17, 2023 relating to the consolidated financial statements of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company"), and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2022.

*/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP*

Houston, Texas  
February 17, 2023

Exhibit 23.1.2

**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement No. 333-238617-01 on Form S-3 of our report dated February 17, 2023, relating to the consolidated financial statements of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and subsidiaries appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC for the year ended December 31, 2022.

*/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP*

Houston, Texas  
February 17, 2023

Exhibit 23.1.3

**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement No. 333-238617-02 on Form S-3 of our report dated February 17, 2023, relating to the consolidated financial statements of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. and subsidiaries, appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. for the year ended December 31, 2022.

/s/ **DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP**

Houston, Texas

February 17, 2023

## CERTIFICATIONS

I, Dave J. Lesar, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(c) and 15d-15(c)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 17, 2023

/s/ DAVE J. LESAR

Dave J. Lesar  
President and Chief Executive Officer



## CERTIFICATIONS

I, Jason P. Wells, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 17, 2023

/s/ JASON P. WELLS

Jason P. Wells

President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer

## CERTIFICATIONS

I, Jason P. Wells, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(c) and 15d-15(c)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(d) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 17, 2023

/s/ JASON P. WELLS

Jason P. Wells

President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer

## CERTIFICATIONS

I, Jason P. Wells, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.:
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(c) and 15d-15(c)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(d) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 17, 2023

/s/ JASON P. WELLS

Jason P. Wells

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Exhibit 52.1.1

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO  
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,  
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906  
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Annual Report of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022 (the "Report"), as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof, I, Dave J. Lesar, Chief Executive Officer, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, to the best of my knowledge, that:

1. The Report truly complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ DAVE J. LESAR

Dave J. Lesar  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
February 17, 2023

Exhibit 52.1.2

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO  
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,  
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906  
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Annual Report of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022 (the "Report"), as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof, I, Jason P. Wells, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, to the best of *my* knowledge, that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ JASON P. WELLS

Jason P. Wells  
President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer  
February 17, 2023

Exhibit 52.1.3

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO  
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,  
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906  
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Annual Report of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022 (the "Report"), as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof, I, Jason P. Wells, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, to the best of my knowledge, that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ JASON P. WELLS

Jason P. Wells  
President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer  
February 17, 2023

Exhibit 52.2.1

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO  
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,  
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906  
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Annual Report of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022 (the "Report"), as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof, I, Jason P. Wells, Chief Financial Officer, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, to the best of my knowledge, that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ JASON P. WELLS

Jason P. Wells  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
February 17, 2023

# **FORWARD TEST YEARS FOR US ELECTRIC UTILITIES**

Prepared for  
**Edison Electric Institute**

Prepared by  
**Mark Newton Lowry, PhD**  
**President**

**David Hovde, MS**  
**Vice President**

**Lullit Getachew, PhD**  
**Senior Economist**

**Matt Makos**  
**Consultant**

**PACIFIC ECONOMICS GROUP RESEARCH LLC**  
**22 East Mifflin St., Suite 302**  
**Madison, Wisconsin USA 53703**  
**608.257.1522**

**August 2010**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

U.S. investor-owned electric utilities (electric “IOUs”) in jurisdictions with historical test year rate cases are grappling today with financial stresses that threaten their ability to serve the public well. Unit costs are rising because growth in sales volumes and other billing determinants is not keeping pace with growth in cost. Cost growth is stimulated by the need to rebuild and expand legacy infrastructure and to meet environmental and other public policy goals. In this situation historical test years, still used in almost 20 U.S. jurisdictions, can erode credit quality and condemn IOUs to chronic underearning.

This report provides an in depth discussion of the test year issue. It includes the results of empirical research which explores why the unit costs of electric IOUs are rising and shows that utilities operating under forward test years realize higher returns on capital and have credit ratings that are materially better than those of utilities operating under historical test years. The research suggests that shifting to a future test year is a prime strategy for rebuilding utility credit ratings as insurance against an uncertain future.

**CHAPTER 1 (FORWARD TEST YEARS)** provides an introduction to test year issues. Problems with historical test years are discussed. We explain that the “matching principle” used to rationalize historical test years assumes that cost and revenue remain balanced. This assumption doesn’t hold when unit cost is rising. In a rising unit cost environment, rates based on historical test years are uncompensatory even in the year they are implemented. As a result, operating risk increases, raising the cost of obtaining funds in capital markets. Service quality may be compromised. Customers receive out of date price signals that encourage excessive consumption. The problems are aggravated when rate hearings are protracted. Utilities commonly respond with more frequent rate case filings but these raise regulatory cost, weaken performance incentives, and distract managers from their basic business while still not giving utilities sufficient attrition relief. It is unfair to expect utilities to offset revenue shortfalls produced by regulatory lag with higher productivity and unrealistic to think that they can do so. Forward test years can yield better results for utilities and their customers.

The unit cost trends of utilities are driven by conditions that are substantially beyond their control. These conditions include trends in input prices, productivity, and the average use of utility services by customers. For the matching principle to work, some combination of growth in utility productivity and average use must offset input price inflation.

Utility efforts to promote customer energy conservation slow growth in average use, thereby raising unit cost and making historical test year rates less compensatory. Forward test years can anticipate the slower growth in average use that results from utility conservation programs. They therefore help to remove utility disincentives to promote conservation aggressively.

The forecasts of costs and billing determinants that are made in a forward test year proceeding are uncertain but involve conditions that are at most two years into the future. A large part of utility cost is no more difficult to budget under forward test years than under historical test years. More volatile components of cost are often subject to true-up mechanisms. Conservative, well-reasoned methods for making forecasts are available. In a rising unit cost environment, the uncertainty of forecasts is less of a concern than the bias of historical test year rates.

Utilities seeking forward test years must be mindful of their high evidentiary burden. The following rate case measures bolster confidence.

- Provide concrete evidence as to why future test years and not historical test years are needed under current circumstances. Evidence concerning trends in the unit cost of utilities and in key unit cost drivers is especially pertinent.
- Provide cost and billing determinant data for one or more historical reference years and carefully explain methodologies for predicting cost and billing determinant changes between those years and the forward test year.
- Use forecasting methods that are transparent and based on reason but not needlessly complex.
- Routine variance reports comparing costs and billing determinants to utility forecasts can increase comfort that forecasts are unbiased.

**CHAPTER 2 (TEST YEAR HISTORY)** presents a brief history of test years in the United States. Historical test years became the norm in the U.S. because periods of stable or declining unit

cost, made possible by slow price inflation and brisk growth in utility productivity and average use, were the rule rather than the exception in the electric utility industry prior to the late 1960s. Growth in productivity and average use have slowed enough in subsequent decades that unit cost has frequently risen. Under favorable business conditions, unit cost can still be flat for several years, making historical test years more reasonable. However, conditions like these can give way to conditions in which unit cost rises for years at a time.

Forward test years were adopted in many jurisdictions during the 1970s and 1980s as unit cost grew briskly, spurred by input price inflation and slower growth in average use and utility productivity. Unit cost growth was flat during most of the 1990s because business conditions driving unit cost growth were more favorable. Input price inflation slowed. Investment needs were more limited, as many utilities grew into capacity added during the construction cycle of the 1970's and early 1980's. Average use grew less rapidly than in the past but nonetheless increased appreciably in most years. Under these conditions, utilities were sometimes able to commit to multiyear base rate freezes.

Unit cost growth has since rebounded due to higher inflation, increased plant additions, and slowing growth in average use. Commissions in several states with historical test year traditions have recently moved in the direction of forward test years. Many of these states are in the West, where comparatively rapid economic growth has stimulated plant additions. The ranks of U.S. jurisdictions that use alternatives to historical test years have swollen and now encompass well over half of the total.

In summary, historical test years became the norm in U.S. rate cases during decades when unit cost was flat or declining due to remarkably brisk utility productivity and average use. Under contemporary conditions, in which average use grows slowly, if at all, and the productivity growth of utilities is more like that of the economy, unit cost may rise for extended periods undermining the matching principle.

**CHAPTER 3 (EMPIRICAL SUPPORT FOR FORWARD TEST YEARS)** presents results of some empirical research on test year issues. In original work for this paper, we calculated the unit cost trends of a sample of vertically integrated electric utilities from 1996 to 2008. Trends in business conditions that drive unit cost growth were measured. We also considered how test year policies affect credit metrics and utility operating performance.