

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

North American Electric Reliability Corporation)))	Docket No. RR20-__-__
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**JOINT PETITION OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION, MIDWEST
RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION, NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING
COUNCIL, INC., RELIABILITYFIRST CORPORATION, SERC RELIABILITY
CORPORATION, TEXAS RELIABILITY ENTITY, INC., AND WESTERN
ELECTRICITY COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR APPROVAL OF THE REVISED *PRO FORMA* REGIONAL DELEGATION
AGREEMENT AND THE REVISED INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL DELEGATION
AGREEMENTS**

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June 29, 2020

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¹ Consistent with prior petitions for approval of regional delegation agreements (“RDA”), the redline of each Regional Entity RDA is run against the revised *Pro Forma* RDA rather than the currently effective version.

(“ReliabilityFirst”) (**Attachment 7**)

- Revised RDA between NERC and SERC Reliability Corporation (“SERC”) (**Attachment 9**)
- Revised RDA between NERC and Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (“Texas RE”) (**Attachment 11**)
- Revised RDA between NERC and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (“WECC”) (**Attachment 13**)

The purpose of the RDAs is to delegate authority to the Regional Entities to propose Reliability Standards to the Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”), to enforce Reliability Standards under Section 39.7 of Commission regulations, and to perform other activities necessary or appropriate for implementing delegated functions. The term of the currently effective RDAs ends on December 31, 2020.

NERC’s proposed revisions to the RDAs will strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the ERO Enterprise, as contemplated in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Commission’s original order granting NERC certification as the ERO. The attached agreements build upon prior versions to enhance effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability. Accordingly, NERC and the Regional Entities respectfully request that the Commission issue an order approving the RDAs to be effective on January 1, 2021.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NERC’s proposed revisions to the *Pro Forma* RDA reflect the ERO Enterprise’s evolution over the past five years, as NERC and the Regional Entities strengthen their activities and relationships under section 215 of the FPA. In accordance with section 215 of the FPA and implementing regulation, NERC may delegate its statutory authority as the ERO to Regional Entities for the purpose of proposing and enforcing Reliability Standards.

The Commission has previously supported rules which provide, “necessary assurance of balanced representation and independence from the users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System.”⁴ It is essential that each Regional Entity operates as an independent and balanced organization, capable of efficiently and effectively executing delegated functions. The primary mission of each Regional Entity is to conduct delegated functions or delegation-related activities without a conflict of interest as provided for in FERC Order No. 672.⁵ The governance structure of each Regional Entity ensures that appropriate safeguards are in place for Regional Entities to perform their oversight role and delegated activities with adequate independence.

Over the past five years, NERC in consultation with the Regional Entities has chosen to take steps to further strengthen its commitment to independent governance in execution of its mission in the public interest. While section 215 of the FPA and Commission regulation permits each Regional Entity to be governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board, or a combination thereof (referred to hereafter as a “hybrid board”), the proposed revisions reflect NERC’s determination and the Regional Entities agreement that independent and hybrid boards provide greater assurance of independence than purely stakeholder boards, particularly with respect to oversight of the compliance and enforcement responsibilities of the Regional Entities. It is essential that the enforcement of NERC Standards be recognized as highly credible and fair, and that this perception not be undermined by any appearances of conflict of interest that may arise as a result of regional oversight of enforcement activities by board members who are employees

⁴ *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062, *order on reh’g and compliance*, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126, P 545 (2006), *order on compliance*, 118 FERC ¶ 61,030, *order on clarification and reh’g*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,046 (2007), *aff’d sub nom. Alcoa Inc. v. FERC*, 564 F.3d 1342 (D.C. Cir. 2009) [hereinafter ERO Certification Order].

⁵ *See Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval, and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, 114 FERC ¶ 61,104 at PP 321-37, *order on reh’g*, Order No. 672-A, 114 FERC ¶ 61,328 (2006) [hereinafter Order No. 672].

of entities subject to Standards. The hybrid board structure provides an effective mechanism to address this risk while a purely stakeholder board structure does not.

Independence and adequate protection against potential conflicts of interest has been a critical focus in recent years as the ERO Enterprise approached the December 31, 2020 expiration of the RDAs last approved by the Commission. This commitment to independence does not detract from the importance of stakeholder engagement in the activities of the ERO Enterprise. Rather the commitment to independence provides stakeholders confidence in unbiased performance of ERO Enterprise activities. Efforts over the past five years to strengthen the ERO Enterprise independence have included:

- Dissolution of two Regional Entities that also performed registered entity functions; and
- Governance restructuring at Regional Entities renewing their RDAs through bylaw revisions and process changes.

In addition, the ERO Enterprise has developed the proposed revisions to the attached *Pro Forma* RDA and Regional Entity RDAs. These proposed revisions enhance independence by:

- Permitting only independent or hybrid boards; and
- Providing for oversight of Regional Entity compliance and enforcement activities through assigning special responsibilities to the independent members of hybrid boards.

The proposed revisions also include modifications that remove language previously necessary to address Regional Entities performing registered entity functions and modifications to enhance efficiency and clarity. The proposed amendments demonstrate that the ERO Enterprise is mindful of reputational risks and is committed to independently and effectively executing the statutory responsibilities of section 215 of the FPA. The RDAs will give greater assurance of balanced representation and independence from the users, owners, and operators of the Bulk-Power System. Accordingly, NERC requests Commission approval of a revised *Pro Forma* RDA,

and the revised RDAs with each of the six Regional Entities, effective January 1, 2021, replacing the currently effective RDAs expiring December 31, 2020.

II. BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVISED *PRO FORMA* RDA

On February 3, 2006, the Commission issued Order No. 672 implementing the requirements of Section 215 of the FPA governing electric reliability and setting forth the criteria used to certify a single independent ERO. In Order No. 672, the Commission established the criteria for the ERO to delegate authority to a Regional Entity, subject to ERO oversight. The Commission also specified that an applicant for designation as the ERO must submit a *Pro Forma* RDA, concurrently with the ERO application, containing the core elements that would uniformly apply to all Regional Entities.⁶

Since the Commission's approval of the first *Pro Forma* RDA, NERC has made two sets of revisions to the RDAs in 2010 and 2015.⁷ The Commission conditionally approved

⁶ Order No. 672, *supra*, at P 712.

⁷ On July 20, 2006, the Commission issued an order certifying NERC as the nation's ERO pursuant to Section 215 of the FPA. The Commission also accepted, subject to certain conditions, NERC's proposal for Regional Entities to perform delegation-related activities as well as NERC's proposed *Pro Forma* RDA. *See* ERO Certification Order.

In 2007, NERC entered into individual RDAs with the Regional Entities, which the Commission accepted. *See Order Accepting ERO Compliance Filing, Accepting ERO/Regional Entity Delegation Agreements, and Accepting Regional Entity 2007 Business Plans*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,060 (2007); *Order Accepting the Submission of Executed ERO/Regional Entity Delegation Agreements and Establishing Limited Comment Procedures*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,232 (2007).

Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for Approval of Revised Pro Forma Delegation Agreement, Revised Delegation Agreements with the Eight Regional Entities, and Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure, Docket. No. RR10-11-000 (Jun. 9, 2010) [hereinafter 2010 Petition] at 3.

In October 2010, the Commission conditionally approved those revisions to the RDAs, subject to certain modifications. NERC submitted a compliance filing in February 2011 to address the modifications to the RDAs directed by the Commission, and the Commission accepted the compliance filing in an order issued on October 7, 2011.

Order Conditionally Approving Revised Pro Forma Delegation Agreement, Revised Delegation Agreements with Regional Entities, Amendments to Rules of Procedure and Certain Regional Entity Bylaws, 133 FERC ¶ 61,061 (Oct. 21, 2010) [hereinafter 2010 RDA Order].

NERC's 2015 proposed revisions subject to directives aimed at improving oversight and transparency. On March 23, 2016, the Commission accepted NERC's compliance filing addressing these directives.⁸ In addition to revisions made to the RDAs in anticipation of their expiration in 2009 and 2014, NERC also made modifications to regional boundaries of MRO, ReliabilityFirst, and SERC to reflect the dissolution of Southwest Power Pool, Inc. and Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc. Regional Entities.⁹

In anticipation of the December 31, 2020 expiration of the currently effective RDAs, NERC began working with Regional Entities to renew and update their RDAs. NERC posted a draft of the revised *Pro Forma* RDA for 14 days from March 25, 2020 to April 8, 2020, providing stakeholders with an opportunity to submit comments. NERC did not receive any comments on the proposed revisions to the *Pro Forma* RDA. On May 14, 2020, the NERC Board of Trustees approved the revisions to the *Pro Forma* RDA for filing and authorized NERC senior management to enter into individualized Regional Entity RDAs, adapted from the revised *pro forma* RDA, incorporating Regional Entity-specific deviations.

The governing bodies of the Regional Entities approved their respective Regional Entity RDAs on the following dates: MRO – June 25, 2020; NPCC – June 24, 2020; ReliabilityFirst – June 4, 2020; SERC – June 24, 2020; Texas RE – May 27, 2020; and WECC June 17, 2020. The *Pro Forma* RDA and resulting Regional Entity RDAs are submitted in this petition.

Compliance Filing of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation in Response to October 21, 2010 Commission Order, Docket No. RR10-11-000 (Feb. 18, 2011) [hereinafter 2011 Petition], *order on compliance Filing*, 137 FERC ¶ 61,028 (Oct. 7, 2011) [hereinafter 2011 RDA Order].

⁸ *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, Docket No. RR15-12-001 (letter order) (Mar. 23, 2016).

⁹ *See N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 163 FERC ¶ 61,094 (2018); and *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, Docket No. RR19-4-000 (2019) (accepting dissolution of Southwest Power Pool, Inc. and Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc. Regional Entities respectively).

III. OVERVIEW OF THE REVISED *PRO FORMA* RDA

NERC's proposed revisions enhance independence and effectiveness of the ERO Enterprise. In addition, the RDAs give greater assurance of balanced representation and independence from the users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System. The governance of each Regional Entity ensures that appropriate safeguards are in place for Regional Entities to perform their oversight role with adequate independence from registered entities. While the Commission permits each Regional Entity to be governed by an independent board, a balanced stakeholder board, or a combination thereof (hybrid boards), the ERO Enterprise has chosen to take additional steps to strengthen its commitment to independence. Independent and hybrid boards provide balance and still support stakeholder participation.

The proposed amendments to the *Pro Forma* RDA follow several efforts by the ERO Enterprise over the past five years to strengthen independence in governance. These efforts include (i) dissolving two Regional Entities that previously performed registered entity functions subject policies designed to avoid conflicts of interest in CMEP; as well as (ii) governance restructuring through bylaw revisions and process changes at several Regional Entities. Adding independence principles to Regional Entity governance demonstrates that the ERO Enterprise is mindful of reputational risks. This commitment to independence does not detract from the importance of stakeholder engagement in the activities of the ERO Enterprise.

a. Recitals

In the **recitals** and **Sections 1(c)** and **2(iv)** of the *Pro Forma* RDA, NERC clarifies that **Exhibit A – Regional Boundaries** to the *Pro Forma* RDA reflects a description of geographic boundaries. NERC proposes to eliminate geographic depictions of Regional Entity boundaries in **Exhibit A – Regional Boundaries** to the *Pro Forma* RDA. The precision of the current maps

within **Exhibit A** varies across Regional Entities and may inadvertently provide misleading information about Regional Entity boundaries. The NERC Compliance Registry reflects registered entity assignment to a specific Regional Entity, as Regional Entity assignment is more appropriately managed through the registration process. Additionally, removing the maps will eliminate the need to amend the RDAs if a registered entity is transferred to a different Regional Entity. In lieu of geographic maps, NERC proposes to only maintain descriptions of the geographic boundaries of each Regional Entity footprint in **Exhibit A – Regional Boundaries**.

b. Representations - Independence

Each Regional Entity renewing its RDA with NERC has taken steps to provide independent director representation on its board of directors through pending or approved revisions to its bylaws. As a result, within the **recitals** and **Section 2(a)(i)** of the *Pro Forma* RDA, NERC proposes to specify that Regional Entities may form an independent board “or a hybrid board consisting of” a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board “members.” NERC proposes to eliminate the reference to “balanced stakeholder board” as well as regulatory references or citations to this governance structure. A parallel change is made in **Exhibit B – Governance**. The RDAs between NERC and MRO, NPCC, ReliabilityFirst, SERC, and Texas RE each reflect that these Regional Entities are governed by hybrid boards. WECC’s RDA continues to reflect its governance by an independent board. There are no stakeholder boards in the ERO Enterprise.

NERC also proposes a new provision within **Section 2(a)(ii)** of the *Pro Forma* RDA stating that each Regional Entity executing the RDA commits to maintaining independent members to perform certain oversight obligations related to governing a Regional Entity. These obligations include:

- Nominating independent board members;
- Compensating the chief executive officer;
- Implementing the compliance monitoring and enforcement program;
- Retaining fair and reasonable compensation for independent board members; and,
- Retaining appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies for board members and staff alike.

These oversight obligations are consistent with independence principles developed by NERC, in consultation with the Regional Entities. NERC proposes to evaluate Regional Entity implementation of independence principals prior to future renewal of the RDAs.

c. Delegation of Authority

In **Section 4**, NERC proposes to remove language describing Regional Entities as affiliated with registered entities and/or performing registered functions. With the dissolution of the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. Regional Entity as well as the Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc. Regional Entity, this language is no longer applicable.

d. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards

In **Section 6(e)**, NERC proposes to prohibit stakeholder representatives from leading a Regional Entity board compliance committee. The role of a compliance committee is to assist with oversight of Regional Entity decision-making within its compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. Each Regional Entity acts as the Compliance and Enforcement Agent for each registered entity in its footprint and A Regional Entity's compliance and enforcement activities are conducted by staff without conflicts of interest. NERC proposes that independence measures should also be implemented in the oversight of these compliance and enforcement activities. To that end, to the extent that there is a compliance committee of a Regional Entity board, it should consist of a majority of independent board members and be chaired by an

independent board member. However, this proposal does not prohibit the participation of stakeholder representatives in such committees, provided there are reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures in place.

e. Funding

In **Section 9(j)**, NERC proposes to remove language prohibiting a Regional Entity from offsetting penalty monies it receives where the penalty monies are received “from an operational function or division or affiliate entity of a Regional Entity.” This language was previously included within the *Pro Forma* RDA to address Regional Entities affiliated with registered entities and/or that performed registered functions. Today, Regional Entities are not affiliated with any registered entity nor do they perform registered functions; as a result, this language is no longer necessary.

f. Term

In **Section 12(b)**, NERC proposes to clarify that the RDAs may be terminated earlier than the end of the stated five-year term so long as the terminating Party provides written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term.

IV. OVERVIEW OF REVISED RDAS WITH REGIONAL ENTITIES

In this section, NERC provides an overview of the differences between the currently effective individual Regional Entity RDAs and the revised Regional Entity RDAs for MRO, NPCC, ReliabilityFirst, SERC, Texas RE, and WECC. These differences reflect customization of each RDA as appropriate for each Regional Entity. The redlines included in **Attachments 3** through **13** incorporate the proposed changes to the *Pro Forma* RDA.

a. MRO RDA

Section 2(a)(i) of the RDA reflects that MRO is governed by a hybrid board comprised, in accordance with its bylaws, of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board

members.

In addition, MRO modifies **Exhibit D – Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program** to the RDA to reflect its adoption of the ERO Enterprise Consolidated Hearing Process as provided in the NERC ROP. Consistent with the NERC ROP and MRO bylaws, MRO may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to the decision becoming effective.

b. NPCC RDA

Section 2(a)(i) of the RDA reflects that NPCC is governed by a hybrid board comprised, in accordance with its bylaws, of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

NPCC also modifies **Section 6(e)** of the RDA to remove references to Regional Entity stakeholder participation in its board compliance committee and makes associated edits in **Exhibit D – Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program**. At NPCC, the compliance committee is not a board committee. Rather, the NPCC compliance committee is comprised of NPCC members who are technical experts. The committee is designed as a forum to share information in a transparent fashion while giving stakeholders an opportunity to comment. To the extent NPCC requires a panel to hear Ontario matters, which are outside the scope of the consolidated hearing process, the NPCC General Counsel and Corporate Secretary together with Outside Counsel and Assistant Secretary would impanel the hearing body.¹⁰

NPCC deletes references in **Exhibit A – Regional Boundaries** to potential compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its Region. In addition, NPCC modifies **Exhibit**

¹⁰ As reflected herein, **Exhibit D – Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program** to NPCC's RDA reflects adoption of the Consolidated Hearing Process in the ROP for U.S. matters.

D – Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program to the RDA to reflect adoption of the ERO Enterprise Consolidated Hearing Process as provided in the NERC ROP for hearings conducted regarding U.S. matters. Consistent with the NERC ROP and NPCC bylaws, NPCC may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to the decision becoming effective.

c. ReliabilityFirst RDA

Section 2(a)(i) of the RDA reflects that ReliabilityFirst is governed by a hybrid board comprised, in accordance with its bylaws, of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

In addition, ReliabilityFirst modifies **Exhibit D – Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program** to the RDA to reflect adoption of the ERO Enterprise Consolidated Hearing Process as provided in the NERC ROP. Consistent with the NERC ROP and ReliabilityFirst bylaws, ReliabilityFirst may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to the decision becoming effective.

d. SERC RDA

Section 2(a)(i) of the RDA reflects that SERC is governed by a hybrid board comprised, in accordance with its bylaws, of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

SERC deletes references in **Exhibit A – Regional Boundaries** to potential compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its Region. In addition, SERC modifies **Exhibit D – Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program** to the RDA to reflect SERC’s adoption of the ERO Enterprise Consolidated Hearing Process as provided in the NERC ROP. Consistent with the NERC ROP and SERC bylaws, SERC may modify its selection of hearing process by

notifying NERC six months prior to the decision becoming effective.

SERC also updated **Exhibit E - Funding**, Section 6 to eliminate references to costs associated with cross-regional compliance monitoring as this provision is no longer necessary in light of dissolution of Florida Reliability Coordinating Council, Inc. Regional Entity.

e. Texas RE RDA

Section 2(a)(i) of the RDA reflects that Texas RE is governed by a hybrid board comprised, in accordance with its bylaws, of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

Texas RE also updates **Exhibit E – Funding** to reflect current accounting, time record, and expense management for statutory and non-statutory activities.

f. WECC RDA

WECC modifies **Exhibit D – Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program** to remove prior references to the Compliance Hearing Body, reflecting adoption of the Consolidated Hearing Process within the NERC ROP. In addition, WECC revises **Exhibit E** to eliminate registered entity related functions from the scope of section 215 funded Situation Awareness activities.¹¹

V. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATION

Notices and communications with respect to this filing may be addressed to the

¹¹ This language previously stated that, “As agreed to by NERC and WECC on an annual basis, this category includes WECC’s Reliability Coordinator Functions, Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program, WECC Interchange Tool, and all necessary supporting activities. If sub-delegated by WECC, the costs for the Reliability Coordinator Functions, Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program, WECC Interchange Tool and necessary supporting activities shall not be included in WECC’s annual budget submission to NERC but rather shall be included in the budget of Peak Reliability.”

following:¹²

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¹² Persons to be included on the Commission’s service list are identified by an asterisk. NERC respectfully requests a waiver of Rule 203 of the Commission’s regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 385.203 (2019), to allow the inclusion of more than two persons on the service list in this proceeding.

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VI. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, NERC respectfully requests that the Commission approve the revised *Pro Forma* RDA and Regional Entity RDAs, as providing for effective and efficient administration of reliability of the Bulk-Power System and providing greater assurance of balanced representation and independence from the users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System as contemplated in the original ERO Certification Order.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 29, 2020

Attachment 1

Revised *Pro Forma* Regional Delegation Agreement
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**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND [REGIONAL ENTITY]**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) Effective as of January 1, 2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and [REGIONAL ENTITY], an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as [REGIONAL ENTITY], provided that:

(A) The Regional Entity is governed by —

- (i) an independent board; or
- (ii) a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, [REGIONAL ENTITY] [is/is not] organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore [is/is not] entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through [REGIONAL ENTITY] to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that [REGIONAL ENTITY] meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY], having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the

Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] agree as follows:

1. **Definitions.** The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) **Breach** means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) **Cross-Border Regional Entity** means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) **Delegated Authority** means the authority delegated by NERC to [REGIONAL ENTITY] to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries described in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. **Representations.**

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, [REGIONAL ENTITY] hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) [REGIONAL ENTITY] is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. [REGIONAL ENTITY] is governed in accordance with its bylaws by [select appropriate: an independent board or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder members]. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any [REGIONAL ENTITY] decision and no single industry sector can veto any [REGIONAL ENTITY] decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other [REGIONAL ENTITY]

corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

(ii) [REGIONAL ENTITY] has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. [REGIONAL ENTITY] has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. [REGIONAL ENTITY] has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, non-independent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

(iii) [REGIONAL ENTITY] has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that [REGIONAL ENTITY] may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards [and Regional Variances, if the regional entity is organized on an Interconnection-wide basis] that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

(iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, [REGIONAL ENTITY] has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to the [REGIONAL ENTITY] as reflected on NERC's Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to [REGIONAL ENTITY] that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of [REGIONAL ENTITY] under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of [REGIONAL ENTITY], which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon [REGIONAL ENTITY].

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of [REGIONAL ENTITY] in this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY's] corporate governance documents, the [REGIONAL ENTITY's] standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and

enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to [REGIONAL ENTITY] for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**. Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to [REGIONAL ENTITY] within, or additions to this delegation of authority to [REGIONAL ENTITY] beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

(b) Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit [REGIONAL ENTITY] from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

(c) For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

(d) As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords [REGIONAL ENTITY] reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards [and Regional Variances, if

Regional Entity is organized on an Interconnection-wide basis] through [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s process. [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. [REGIONAL ENTITY] may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements

of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. [REGIONAL ENTITY] may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY] agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by [REGIONAL ENTITY], as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by [REGIONAL ENTITY] of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), [Regional Entity] may have stakeholders participate in a board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

(f) [For Regional Entities with such agreements: [REGIONAL ENTITY] may also perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of the boundaries shown in **Exhibit A**, on behalf of a Regional Entity that is unable to perform such activities with respect to one or more registered entities within its footprint due to a conflict of interest. Such activities shall be performed pursuant to a contract between [REGIONAL ENTITY] and other such Regional Entity that is approved by both NERC and the Commission.]

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage [REGIONAL ENTITY] on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by [REGIONAL ENTITY] in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by [REGIONAL ENTITY] and other Regional Entities. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-

date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** [REGIONAL ENTITY] may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may

from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] that matters relating to NERC's oversight of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with [REGIONAL ENTITY] and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to [REGIONAL ENTITY] on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, [REGIONAL

ENTITY] and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring [REGIONAL ENTITY] to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to [REGIONAL ENTITY] of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for [REGIONAL ENTITY] to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance and the need for an action plan. [REGIONAL ENTITY] may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s action plan. A final action plan submitted by [REGIONAL ENTITY] to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to [REGIONAL ENTITY] standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from [REGIONAL ENTITY] and other Regional Entities, for [REGIONAL ENTITY] personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to [REGIONAL ENTITY] concerning the manner in which [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered "directives." NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with [REGIONAL ENTITY] and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, [REGIONAL ENTITY], subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by [REGIONAL ENTITY], the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s agreement, *provided*, that [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which [REGIONAL ENTITY], and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. [REGIONAL ENTITY], either

individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with [REGIONAL ENTITY], either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of [REGIONAL ENTITY] on a reasonable periodicity to determine [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, [REGIONAL ENTITY] to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC agree that the portion of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by [REGIONAL ENTITY] and approved by NERC and the Commission. If [REGIONAL ENTITY] proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide [REGIONAL ENTITY] with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of [REGIONAL ENTITY], to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s Commission-approved business plan and budget, in the amount of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s assessments to end users

approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to [REGIONAL ENTITY], unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon [REGIONAL ENTITY] that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall offset penalty monies it receives against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement. *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, [REGIONAL ENTITY] may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

- 10. Assignment.** This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole

discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. [REGIONAL ENTITY] may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit [REGIONAL ENTITY] from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided [REGIONAL ENTITY] retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on [January 1, 2021] (the "Effective Date").

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date ("Term"), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that [REGIONAL ENTITY] continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If [REGIONAL ENTITY] meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed

for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that [REGIONAL ENTITY] continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on

any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that [REGIONAL ENTITY] or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case [REGIONAL ENTITY] or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the

NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of [REGIONAL ENTITY] under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of [REGIONAL ENTITY], which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent [REGIONAL ENTITY] does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of [REGIONAL ENTITY] under this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by [REGIONAL ENTITY] to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of

the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through

Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. **Notice.** All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

If to [REGIONAL ENTITY]:

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

Attn:
Email:

20. **Governing Law.** When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. **Headings.** The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. **Savings Clause.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that [REGIONAL ENTITY] may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and

actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. **Entire Agreement**. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.
24. **Execution of Counterparts**. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

[REGIONAL ENTITY]

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Attachment 2

Revised *Pro Forma* Regional Delegation Agreement Redline

**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND [REGIONAL ENTITY]**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) Effective as of January 1, ~~2016~~2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and [REGIONAL ENTITY], an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries ~~identified~~ described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as [REGIONAL ENTITY], provided that:

(A) The Regional Entity is governed by —

- ~~(i)~~ an independent board;
- ~~(ii)(i) a balanced stakeholder board;~~ or
- ~~(iii)(ii)~~ (ii) a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder ~~board~~ members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, [REGIONAL ENTITY] [is/is not] organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore [is/is not] entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through [REGIONAL ENTITY] to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that [REGIONAL ENTITY] meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY], having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of

their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to [REGIONAL ENTITY] to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries ~~described~~identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, [REGIONAL ENTITY] hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) [REGIONAL ENTITY] is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. [REGIONAL ENTITY] is governed in accordance with its bylaws by [select appropriate: an independent board or a hybrid board consisting of /a balanced stakeholder board/ a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder ~~board members~~]. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any [REGIONAL ENTITY] decision and no single industry sector can veto any [REGIONAL

ENTITY] decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other [REGIONAL ENTITY] corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

~~(i)~~ [REGIONAL ENTITY] has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. [REGIONAL ENTITY] has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. [REGIONAL ENTITY] has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, non-independent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

(ii)

~~(ii)(iii)~~ [REGIONAL ENTITY] has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that [REGIONAL ENTITY] may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards [and Regional Variances, if the regional entity is organized on an Interconnection-wide basis] that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

~~(iii)(iv)~~ As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, [REGIONAL ENTITY] has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to the within [REGIONAL ENTITY] as reflected on NERC's geographic boundaries as shown in **Exhibit A** Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to [REGIONAL ENTITY] that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement

and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of [REGIONAL ENTITY] under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of [REGIONAL ENTITY], which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon [REGIONAL ENTITY].

4. **Delegation of Authority.**

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of [REGIONAL ENTITY] in this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY's] corporate governance documents, the [REGIONAL ENTITY's] standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to [REGIONAL ENTITY] for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**, ~~provided, that [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall not monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards for [REGIONAL ENTITY] or an affiliated entity with respect to reliability functions for which [REGIONAL ENTITY] or an affiliate is a Registered Entity.~~ Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to [REGIONAL ENTITY] within, or additions to this delegation of authority to [REGIONAL ENTITY] beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

~~(b) — In circumstances where [REGIONAL ENTITY] or an affiliated entity is a Registered Entity, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall enter into an agreement with another Regional Entity or NERC for the other Regional Entity or NERC to monitor and enforce [REGIONAL ENTITY's] or affiliate's compliance with Reliability Standards. Such agreements are subject to NERC and Commission approval.~~

~~(e)(b)~~ Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit [REGIONAL ENTITY] from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

~~(d)(c)~~ For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

~~(e)(d)~~ As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of
Amended and Restated Pro Forma Regional Delegation Agreement page 6 of 25

Section 17 of this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords [REGIONAL ENTITY] reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards [and Regional Variances, if Regional Entity is organized on an Interconnection-wide basis] through [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s process. [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. [REGIONAL ENTITY] may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an

Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. [REGIONAL ENTITY] may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY] agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by [REGIONAL ENTITY], as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this

Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by [REGIONAL ENTITY] of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), A [Regional Entity] may have stakeholders ~~lead or~~ participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

(f) [For Regional Entities with such agreements: [REGIONAL ENTITY] may also perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of the boundaries shown in **Exhibit A**, on behalf of a Regional Entity that is unable to perform such activities with respect to one or more registered entities within its footprint due to a conflict of interest. Such activities shall be performed pursuant to a contract between [REGIONAL ENTITY] and other such Regional Entity that is approved by both NERC and the Commission.]

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage [REGIONAL ENTITY] on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by [REGIONAL ENTITY] in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall

set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by [REGIONAL ENTITY] and other Regional Entities. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and

[REGIONAL ENTITY] shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** [REGIONAL ENTITY] may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] that matters relating to NERC's oversight of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with [REGIONAL ENTITY] and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters

(including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to [REGIONAL ENTITY] on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, [REGIONAL ENTITY] and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring [REGIONAL ENTITY] to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to [REGIONAL ENTITY] of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for [REGIONAL ENTITY] to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance and the need for an action plan. [REGIONAL ENTITY] may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s action plan. A final action plan submitted by [REGIONAL ENTITY] to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to [REGIONAL ENTITY] standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from [REGIONAL ENTITY] and other Regional Entities, for [REGIONAL ENTITY] personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to [REGIONAL ENTITY] concerning the manner in which [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered “directives.” NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with [REGIONAL ENTITY] and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, [REGIONAL ENTITY], subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by [REGIONAL ENTITY], the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without [REGIONAL ENTITY]’s agreement, *provided*, that [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President

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makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which [REGIONAL ENTITY], and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. [REGIONAL ENTITY], either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with [REGIONAL ENTITY], either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of [REGIONAL ENTITY] on a reasonable periodicity to determine [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission

approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, [REGIONAL ENTITY] to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC agree that the portion of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by [REGIONAL ENTITY] and approved by NERC and the Commission. If [REGIONAL ENTITY] proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide [REGIONAL ENTITY] with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of [REGIONAL ENTITY], to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s Commission-approved business plan and budget, in the amount of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to [REGIONAL ENTITY], unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon [REGIONAL ENTITY] that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall offset penalty monies it receives ~~(other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of [REGIONAL ENTITY])~~ against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement, ~~and the mechanism by which [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall transmit to NERC any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of [REGIONAL ENTITY].~~ *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, [REGIONAL ENTITY] may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. [REGIONAL ENTITY] may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit [REGIONAL ENTITY] from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided [REGIONAL ENTITY] retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the

nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on [January 1, ~~2016~~2021] (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date (“Term”), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that [REGIONAL ENTITY] continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If [REGIONAL ENTITY] meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that [REGIONAL ENTITY] continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement ~~as of the end of a term~~ by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of [REGIONAL ENTITY]’s Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a

regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that [REGIONAL ENTITY] or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case [REGIONAL ENTITY] or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section

1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of [REGIONAL ENTITY] under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of [REGIONAL ENTITY], which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent [REGIONAL ENTITY] does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of [REGIONAL ENTITY] under this Agreement, [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by [REGIONAL ENTITY] to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by [REGIONAL ENTITY] and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and [REGIONAL ENTITY] (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to [REGIONAL ENTITY]'s performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties

shall use the following procedures (“Dispute Resolution”) to attempt to resolve the dispute. [REGIONAL ENTITY] shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party’s position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party’s designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party’s position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party’s designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party’s notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may

be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

If to [REGIONAL ENTITY]:

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

Attn:
Email:

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement

will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that [REGIONAL ENTITY] may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. Execution of Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

[REGIONAL ENTITY]

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Attachment 3

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with Midwest Reliability Organization
Clean

**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND MIDWEST RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, 2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and Midwest Reliability Organization, Inc. (“MRO”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and MRO may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional

entities (“Regional Entities”) such as MRO, provided that:

- (A) The Regional Entity is governed by —
 - (i) an independent board; or
 - (ii) A hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, MRO is not organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is not entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through MRO to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that MRO meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and MRO, having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the

predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and MRO agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to MRO to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, MRO hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) MRO is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. MRO is governed in accordance with its bylaws by a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any MRO decision and

no single industry sector can veto any MRO decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other MRO corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

(ii) MRO has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. MRO has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. MRO has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, nonindependent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

(iii) MRO has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that MRO may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

(iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, MRO has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to MRO as reflected on NERC's Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to MRO that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, MRO shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) MRO shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of MRO under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of MRO, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and MRO shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon MRO.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of MRO in this Agreement, MRO's corporate governance documents, MRO's standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby

delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to MRO for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**. Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to MRO within, or additions to this delegation of authority to MRO beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

(b) Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit MRO from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

(c) For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both MRO and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

(d) As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, MRO shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, MRO shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords MRO reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards through MRO's process. MRO's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any

changes to MRO's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through MRO's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. MRO may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, MRO shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and MRO agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit

program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. MRO may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, MRO agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) MRO shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) MRO shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by MRO, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and MRO shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by MRO of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, MRO shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), MRO may have

stakeholders participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage MRO on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by MRO in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by MRO and other Regional Entities. MRO shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to

the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** MRO shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. MRO shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** MRO shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and MRO shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, MRO shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** MRO may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** MRO shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** MRO shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of MRO's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and MRO that matters relating to NERC's oversight of MRO's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and MRO and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with MRO and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and MRO's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. MRO shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate MRO's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate MRO's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to MRO on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, MRO and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, MRO shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of MRO's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring MRO to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to MRO of the

need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for MRO to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of MRO's performance and the need for an action plan. MRO may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and MRO shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of MRO's action plan. A final action plan submitted by MRO to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to MRO standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from MRO and other Regional Entities, for MRO personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to MRO concerning the manner in which MRO shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered "directives." NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with MRO and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and MRO and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, MRO, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by MRO, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without MRO's agreement, *provided*, that MRO shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and MRO and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which MRO, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. MRO, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with MRO, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of MRO on a reasonable periodicity to determine MRO's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC

Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. MRO and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) MRO shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. MRO's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, MRO to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. MRO's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) MRO and NERC agree that the portion of MRO's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by MRO and approved by NERC and the Commission. If MRO proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, MRO shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and MRO to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide MRO with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) MRO shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of MRO, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund MRO's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with MRO's Commission- approved business plan and budget, in the amount of MRO's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting MRO's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to MRO, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon MRO that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without MRO's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and MRO fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. MRO shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts.

NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) MRO shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) MRO shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which MRO shall offset penalty monies it receives against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement. *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, MRO may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. MRO may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit MRO from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided MRO retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and

diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2021 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date (“Term”), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that MRO continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If MRO meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that MRO continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of MRO’s Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity

or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by MRO and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. MRO and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and MRO shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of MRO's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that MRO or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case MRO or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to

such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of MRO under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of MRO, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent MRO does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of MRO under this Agreement, MRO shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by MRO to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by MRO and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and MRO (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to MRO's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures

(“Dispute Resolution”) to attempt to resolve the dispute. MRO shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party’s position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party’s designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party’s position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party’s designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party’s notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period

may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to MRO:

Midwest Reliability Organization
380 St. Peter Street
Suite 800
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
Attn: General Counsel
Email: generalcounsel@mro.net

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that MRO may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. Execution of Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

MIDWEST RELIABILITY
ORGANIZATION, INC.

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: **_Sara E. Patrick**

Title: _____

Title: **_President and CEO**

Date: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit A — Regional Boundaries

MRO is one of six regional entities that operates under a Delegation Agreement with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). MRO is a not for profit entity committed to safeguarding and improving reliability of the Bulk Power System for registered entities in all or part of the states of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin as provided in the NERC Compliance Registry and under similar arrangements with NERC and provincial authorities in the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

There are several Regional Transmission Organizations that overlap MRO and other Regional Entity footprints. MRO coordinates its delegated responsibilities with these neighboring Regional Entities to avoid duplicity and ensure consistency and accuracy. MRO does not have affiliates and does not perform any reliability functions that would result in a conflict or inability to perform the delegated responsibilities of this Agreement.

MRO may also perform compliance and enforcement activities outside of its geographic boundaries, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, such activities to be undertaken pursuant to the ERO Enterprise Multi-Region Registered Entity Coordinated Oversight Program.

Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]

Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Midwest Reliability Organization (“MRO”) will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within **MRO’s** geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

MRO has adopted the Consolidated Hearing Process consistent with Rules of Procedure 403.15.B. to conduct hearings and issue decisions concerning disputed compliance matters in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, of Appendix 4C.

However, consistent with the Rules of Procedure and **MRO’s** bylaws, **MRO** may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to the decision becoming effective.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

A presiding officer who presides over the reception of evidence may prepare recommendations to be used by the board of directors in preparing its decision in a compliance hearing. In addition to compliance hearings, **MRO’s** Hearing Body also reviews and approves settlements in a yes or no fashion, but is not permitted to make modifications to negotiated settlements/agreements.

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

Midwest Reliability Organization (“MRO”) shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and MRO, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of MRO’s business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require MRO (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of MRO’s proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by MRO Board of Trustees to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC’s review, approval and submission of MRO’s business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The MRO business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including MRO’s complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. MRO’s business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve MRO’s proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or

shall direct MRO to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit MRO's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of MRO's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. MRO shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying MRO's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of MRO's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified by MRO covering the NERC and MRO assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, MRO shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, MRO is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within MRO's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within MRO's region.

(c) Upon approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities of MRO's annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay MRO's annual assessment to Regional Entity in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by MRO shall be applied as a general offset to MRO's budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity.

6. Budget and Funding for MRO's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), MRO performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"): **NONE**.

MRO shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions: **NOT APPLICABLE**.

MRO shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that MRO submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. MRO's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of MRO's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. MRO agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of MRO's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of MRO's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities.

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if MRO determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, MRO shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in MRO's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct MRO to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit MRO's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to MRO with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of MRO, including records used to prepare MRO's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by MRO pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. MRO shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

Attachment 4

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with Midwest Reliability Organization Redline

EXECUTION VERSION

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION AND MIDWEST RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, ~~2016~~2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and Midwest Reliability Organization, Inc. (“MRO”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries ~~identified~~described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and MRO may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the

delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as MRO, provided that:

(A) The Regional Entity is governed by —

~~(i)~~ an independent board;

~~(ii)(i) a balanced stakeholder board;~~ or

~~(iii)(ii)~~ A hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, MRO is not organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is not entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through MRO to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that MRO meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and MRO, having operated under a predecessor agreement to

this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and MRO agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to MRO to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, MRO hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) MRO is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. MRO is governed in accordance with its bylaws by [a](#)

hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any MRO decision and no single industry sector can veto any MRO decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other MRO corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

(ii) MRO has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. MRO has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. MRO has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, nonindependent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

~~(ii)(iii)~~ (iii) MRO has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that MRO may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

~~(iii)(iv)~~ (iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, MRO has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to within MRO as reflected on NERC's geographic boundaries as shown in Exhibit A Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to MRO that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement

and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, MRO shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) MRO shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of MRO under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of MRO, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and MRO shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon MRO.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of MRO in this Agreement, MRO's corporate governance documents, MRO's standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to MRO for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**. Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to MRO within, or additions to this delegation of authority to MRO beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

~~(b)~~—[This subsection intentionally left blank].

~~(e)(b)~~ Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit MRO from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

~~(d)(c)~~ For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both MRO and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

~~(e)(d)~~ As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, MRO shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

- (a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, MRO shall be entitled to:
- (i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications

thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords MRO reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards through MRO's process. MRO's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to MRO's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through MRO's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. MRO may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, MRO shall

enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and MRO agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. MRO may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, MRO agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) MRO shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) MRO shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by MRO, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and MRO shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by MRO of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, MRO shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. ~~As Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), MRO-Regional Entity~~ may have stakeholders ~~lead or~~ participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage MRO on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by MRO in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by MRO and other Regional Entities. MRO shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy

its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** MRO shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. MRO shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** MRO shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and MRO shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, MRO shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** MRO may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** MRO shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to

time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** MRO shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of MRO's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and MRO that matters relating to NERC's oversight of MRO's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and MRO and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with MRO and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and MRO's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. MRO shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate MRO's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate MRO's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to MRO on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, MRO and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, MRO shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of MRO's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring MRO to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to MRO of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for MRO to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of MRO's performance and the need for an action plan. MRO may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and MRO shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of MRO's action plan. A final action plan submitted by MRO to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to MRO standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from MRO and other Regional Entities, for MRO personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to MRO concerning the manner in which MRO shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered "directives." NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with MRO and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and MRO and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, MRO, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption,

implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by MRO, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without MRO's agreement, *provided*, that MRO shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and MRO and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which MRO, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. MRO, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with MRO, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of MRO on a reasonable periodicity to determine MRO's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. MRO and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) MRO shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. MRO's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, MRO to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. MRO's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) MRO and NERC agree that the portion of MRO's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by MRO and approved by NERC and the Commission. If MRO proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in

the following year, MRO shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and MRO to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide MRO with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) MRO shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of MRO, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund MRO's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with MRO's Commission- approved business plan and budget, in the amount of MRO's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting MRO's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to MRO, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon MRO that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without MRO's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and MRO fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. MRO shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) MRO shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) MRO shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which MRO shall offset penalty monies it receives against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement. *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, MRO may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. MRO may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit MRO from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided MRO retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the “Default Notice”). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, ~~2016~~2021 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date (“Term”), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that MRO continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If MRO meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that MRO continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement ~~as of the end of a term~~ by providing written notice to terminate no

later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of MRO's Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by MRO and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. MRO and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and MRO shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the

performance of MRO's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that MRO or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case MRO or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt

notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of MRO under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of MRO, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent MRO does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting

the rights or obligations of MRO under this Agreement, MRO shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by MRO to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by MRO and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and MRO (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to MRO's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. MRO shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the

process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to MRO:

Midwest Reliability Organization
380 St. Peter Street
Suite 800
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
Attn: General Counsel
Email:
generalcounsel@mro.netmidwestreliability.org

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that MRO may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and

do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. Execution of Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

MIDWEST RELIABILITY
ORGANIZATION, INC.

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: Sara E.
Patrick

Title: _____

Title: President and
CEO

Date: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit A — Regional Boundaries

MRO is one of ~~eight~~six regional entities that operates under a Delegation Agreement ~~comprise with~~ the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). MRO is a not for profit entity committed to safeguarding and improving reliability of the Bulk Power System ~~in the upper~~ for registered entities in all or part of the states of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin as provided in the NERC Compliance Registry and under similar arrangements with NERC and provincial authorities in Midwest part of North America and the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. ~~The Midwest Reliability Organization region supplies approximately 270,000,000 megawatt hours to more than twenty million people and covers roughly one million square miles.~~

There are several Regional Transmission Organizations that overlap MRO and other Regional Entity footprints. MRO coordinates its delegated responsibilities with these neighboring Regional Entities to avoid duplicity and ensure consistency and accuracy. MRO does not have affiliates and does not perform any reliability functions that would result in a conflict or inability to perform the delegated responsibilities of this Agreement.

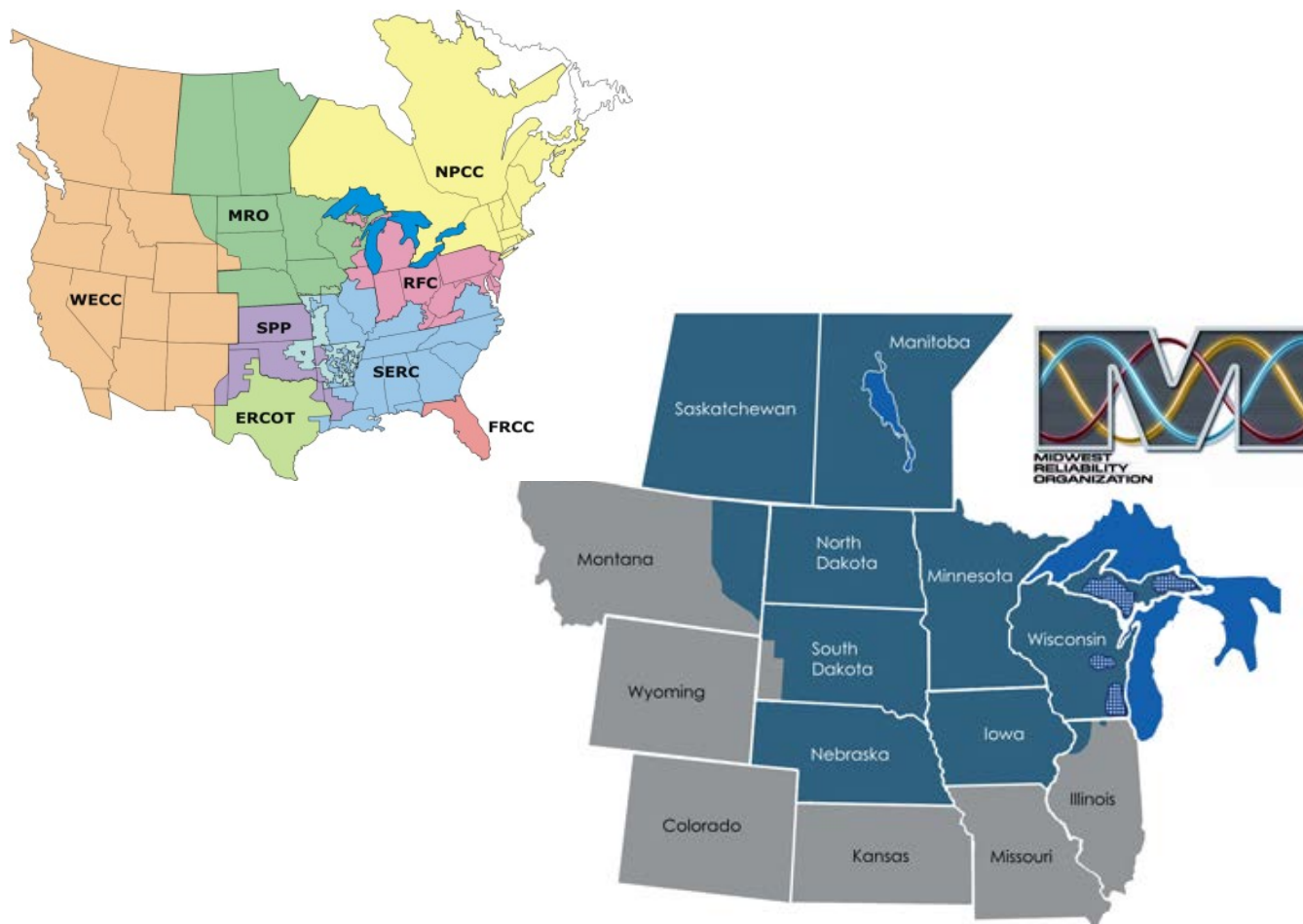


Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board, ~~a balanced stakeholder board,~~ or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. (~~Federal Power Act § 215(e)(4)(A), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(1), Order No. 672 at ¶ 727.~~)

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]

Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Midwest Reliability Organization (“MRO”) will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within **MRO’s** geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

MRO has adopted the Consolidated Hearing Process consistent with Rules of Procedure 403.15.B. to conduct hearings and issue decisions concerning disputed compliance matters in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, of Appendix 4C.

However, consistent with the Rules of Procedure and MRO’s bylaws, MRO may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to the decision becoming effective. MRO, to the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either MRO’s board, a committee of the board, a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to MRO’s board or an independent hearing panel. MRO’s hearing body is a balanced subset of its board that is appointed by the board with no more than one member from each sector.

To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, MRO shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: NONE.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

A presiding officer who presides over the reception of evidence may prepare recommendations to be used by the board of directors in preparing its decision in a compliance hearing. In addition to compliance hearings, **MRO’s** Hearing Body also reviews and approves settlements in a yes or no fashion, but is not permitted to make modifications to negotiated settlements/agreements.

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

Midwest Reliability Organization (“MRO”) shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and MRO, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of MRO’s business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require MRO (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of MRO’s proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by MRO Board of Trustees to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC’s review, approval and submission of MRO’s business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The MRO business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including MRO’s complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. MRO’s business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve MRO’s proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or

shall direct MRO to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit MRO's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of MRO's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. MRO shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying MRO's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of MRO's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified by MRO covering the NERC and MRO assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, MRO shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, MRO is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within MRO's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within MRO's region.

(c) Upon approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities of MRO's annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay MRO's annual assessment to Regional Entity in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by MRO shall be applied as a general offset to MRO's budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity.

6. Budget and Funding for MRO's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), MRO performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"): **NONE**.

MRO shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions: **NOT APPLICABLE**.

MRO shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that MRO submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. MRO's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of MRO's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. MRO agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of MRO's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of MRO's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities.

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if MRO determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, MRO shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in MRO's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct MRO to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit MRO's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to MRO with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of MRO, including records used to prepare MRO's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by MRO pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. MRO shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

Attachment 5

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.
Clean

**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, 2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (“NPCC”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and NPCC may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional

entities (“Regional Entities”) such as NPCC, provided that:

- (A) The Regional Entity is governed by —
 - (i) an independent board; or
 - (ii) a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, NPCC is not organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is not entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through NPCC to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that NPCC meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and NPCC, having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the

predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and NPCC agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to NPCC to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, NPCC hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) NPCC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. NPCC is governed in accordance with its bylaws by a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any NPCC decision

and no single industry sector can veto any NPCC decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other NPCC corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

(ii) NPCC has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. NPCC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. NPCC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, nonindependent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. NPCC's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with NPCC and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

(iii) NPCC has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that NPCC may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

(iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, NPCC has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to NPCC as reflected on NERC's Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to NPCC that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the

Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, NPCC shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) NPCC shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of NPCC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of NPCC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and NPCC shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon NPCC.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of NPCC in this Agreement, NPCC's corporate governance documents, the NPCC's standards development

process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to NPCC for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**. Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to NPCC within, or additions to this delegation of authority to NPCC beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

(b) Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit NPCC from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

(c) For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both NPCC and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

(d) As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, NPCC shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

- (a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, NPCC shall be entitled to:
- (i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords NPCC reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and
 - (ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards through NPCC's process. NPCC's

process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to NPCC's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through NPCC's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. NPCC may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, NPCC shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and NPCC agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the

Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. NPCC may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NPCC agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) NPCC shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) NPCC shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by NPCC, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and NPCC shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by NPCC of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, NPCC shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program.

(f) NPCC may also perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of the boundaries shown in **Exhibit A**, on behalf of a Regional Entity that is unable to perform such activities with respect to one or more registered entities within its footprint due to a conflict of interest. Such activities shall be performed pursuant to a contract between NPCC and other such Regional Entity that is approved by both NERC and the Commission.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage NPCC on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by NPCC in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by NPCC and other Regional Entities. NPCC shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and

decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** NPCC shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. NPCC shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** NPCC shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and NPCC shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, NPCC shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** NPCC may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** NPCC shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-

Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** NPCC shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of NPCC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and NPCC that matters relating to NERC's oversight of NPCC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and NPCC and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with NPCC and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and NPCC's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. NPCC shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate NPCC's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate NPCC's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to NPCC on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, NPCC and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, NPCC shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of NPCC's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring NPCC to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to NPCC of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for NPCC to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of NPCC's performance and the need for an action plan. NPCC may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and NPCC shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of NPCC's action plan. A final action plan submitted by NPCC to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to NPCC standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from NPCC and other Regional Entities, for NPCC personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to NPCC concerning the manner in which NPCC shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered "directives." NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with NPCC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and NPCC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, NPCC, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption,

implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by NPCC, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without NPCC's agreement, *provided*, that NPCC shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and NPCC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which NPCC, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. NPCC, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with NPCC, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of NPCC on a reasonable periodicity to determine NPCC's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. NPCC and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) NPCC shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. NPCC's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, NPCC to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. NPCC's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) NPCC and NERC agree that the portion of NPCC's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by NPCC and approved by NERC and the Commission. If NPCC proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in

the following year, NPCC shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and NPCC to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide NPCC with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) NPCC shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of NPCC, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund NPCC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with NPCC's Commission-approved business plan and budget, in the amount of NPCC's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting NPCC's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to NPCC, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon NPCC that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without NPCC's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and NPCC fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. NPCC shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) NPCC shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) NPCC shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which NPCC shall offset penalty monies it receives against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement. *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, NPCC may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. NPCC may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit NPCC from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided NPCC retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the “Default Notice”). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2021 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date (“Term”), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that NPCC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If NPCC meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that NPCC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon

the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of NPCC's Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by NPCC and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. NPCC and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and NPCC shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of NPCC's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that

NPCC or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case NPCC or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to

enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of NPCC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of NPCC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent NPCC does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of NPCC under this Agreement, NPCC shall have the option,

exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by NPCC to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by NPCC and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and NPCC (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to NPCC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. NPCC shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to NPCC:

Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.
1040 Avenue of the Americas
10th Floor
New York, New York 10018
Attn: Edward Schwerdt
Email: eschwerdt@npcc.org

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that NPCC may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in

Exhibit A.

23. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. Execution of Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING
COUNCIL, INC.

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____



**Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC)
Exhibit A – Geographic Area**

NPCC is a not for profit entity committed to safeguarding and improving reliability of the Bulk Power System in all or part of the states of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, in addition to Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in Canada. The geographic boundaries of NPCC are determined by the service areas as documented in the NERC Compliance Registry and in accordance with MOUs and similar agreements.

The total population served is approximately 56 million. The area covered is approximately 1.2 million square miles.

Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]



Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.

Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

1.1 Obligations of NPCC

NPCC will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within the U.S. portion of NPCC's geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement, subject to any deviations from the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program described in Section 1.2 below (the "Compliance Program"). NPCC has adopted the Consolidated Hearing Process for hearings conducted regarding U.S. matters.

1.2 Deviations from the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

Compliance monitoring and enforcement programs will be implemented within the Canadian portion of NPCC's geographic area, consistent with individual Canadian Provincial Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) or Agreements and Canadian laws. All executed MOUs and Agreements will be provided to NERC as allowable under Canadian law.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

NPCC has adopted the Consolidated Hearing Process consistent with Rules of Procedure 403.15.B. to conduct hearings and issue decisions concerning disputed compliance matters in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, of Appendix 4C.

However, consistent with the Rules of Procedure and NPCC's bylaws, NPCC may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to the decision becoming effective. To the extent required by the Rules of Procedure, NPCC bylaws and other agreements, NPCC would establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a registered entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan. The regional Hearing Body would consist of an independent Hearing Officer and two (2) Independent Directors. The Hearing Officer, who is not a member of the NPCC Board or NPCC Staff, would conduct the hearing. The Hearing Body would utilize a simple majority vote to resolve issues. This voting rule, along with the structure of the Hearing Body, fully supports the requirement that no two stakeholder sectors may control, and no single stakeholder sector may veto, a matter before the Hearing Body.



To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, **NPCC** shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a registered entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: None

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

NPCC Management, based on the review and recommendations of Compliance Staff, will be the sole decision-making body to review and make final determinations on each potential noncompliance identified by any means.

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

NPCC shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and NPCC, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of NPCC's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require NPCC (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of NPCC's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by NPCC Board of Directors to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of NPCC's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The NPCC business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including NPCC's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. NPCC's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve NPCC's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct NPCC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval.

NERC shall submit NPCC's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of NPCC's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. NPCC shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying NPCC's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of NPCC's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified by NPCC covering the NERC and NPCC assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, NPCC shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, NPCC is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within NPCC's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within NPCC's region.

(c) Upon approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities of NPCC's annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay NPCC's annual assessment to NPCC in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by NPCC, other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of NPCC, shall be applied as a general offset to NPCC's budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the

investigating entity. Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of NPCC shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.

6. Budget and Funding for NPCC's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), NPCC's Criteria Services division performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section as "non-statutory activities"):

NPCC List of Criteria Services Division Functions (Non-Statutory Activities)

1. Regionally-specific Criteria
 - NPCC develops and maintains Regionally-specific more stringent criteria
 - NPCC develops and maintains criteria establishing resource adequacy requirements within the region
2. Criteria Compliance Program
 - NPCC monitors and assesses compliance with its more stringent regional criteria
 - NPCC conducts a Reliability Compliance and Enforcement Program (RCEP) utilizing non-monetary sanctions

NPCC shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its Regional Entity division (statutory activities) separate from its funding mechanisms for its Criteria Services division (non- statutory activities), and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions:

1. Funding of NPCC Criteria Services Division (non-statutory activities). A separate membership based funding mechanism is utilized for non-statutory activities.
2. NPCC procedures for separating funding and expenditures for Regional Entity division (statutory activities) and criteria services division (non-statutory activities)

NPCC utilizes the NERC System of Accounts (NSOA) to provide consistency for account codes, divisional separation codes and activity codes. In August of 2007, NPCC CBRE (which prior to the merger performed statutory activities) merged into and with Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (referred to as NPCC) (which prior to the merger performed non-statutory activities) with the merged corporation having divisional separation for Regional Entity and Criteria Services. As recommended by NERC, NPCC uses the not-for-profit MIP Fund Accounting program by Sage Software to accurately account for income, time and labor. Effective January 1, 2008, with corporate restructuring of NPCC completed in later 2007, 2008 actual program costs are being charged to appropriate program

areas.

NPCC does not conduct resource or transmission planning, is not an Independent System Operator (ISO), nor does it perform the functions of a Reliability Coordinator (RC). As such, while at this time, there is a breakout for Criteria related activities, all functions performed by NPCC are in the furtherance of NERC's statutory mission and reliability of the international bulk power system in Northeastern North America.

Methodology

NPCC's revenue and expenditure classification methodology identifies appropriate methods of accounting for income, time and costs to ensure that U.S. Federal/statutory and Canadian provincial and/or governmental authorities' agreed upon revenue and expenses are accounted for separately from NPCC's Regionally-specific Criteria development and Criteria compliance (non-statutory) income, time and expense.

Division Codes

There are two division codes that are used by NPCC in accounting for revenues and expenses. The codes are as follows:

Division ID	Division Name
RE	Regional Entity – U.S. Statutory and Canadian Regulatory and/or Governmental Authority authorized
CSD	Criteria Services - Non-Statutory

The two division codes allow NPCC to separate Regional Entity statutory activity revenues and expenses from Criteria Services non-statutory activity revenues and expenses. These categories were developed to ensure that non-statutory related revenues and expenses are segregated and accounted for separately from statutory-related revenues and expenses.

Program Codes

As required by NERC, NPCC adopted a financial accounting system consistent with NERC's functional categories. At NPCC, functional categories are referred to as Program Codes.

There are twelve program codes that are used by NPCC in accounting for expenses. The codes are as follows:

Program ID	Program Name
300	Reliability Standards
400	Compliance Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification
800	Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis
700	Reliability Readiness Evaluation and Improvement
900	Training and Education
1000	Situational Awareness and Infrastructure Security
ADMIN	General Administration
FINANCE	Accounting and Finance
HR	Human Resources
IT	Information Technology
LEGAL	Legal and Regulatory
MEMBERS	Members Forum

Program codes are used to further delineate expenses into functional groupings that are assigned to program heads. NPCC staff utilize their assigned program codes (the program where they reside for payroll purposes) when coding expenses, unless otherwise authorized by management.

When time is spent in support of both statutory activities and non-statutory activities (applicable to a limited number of employees in the Administrative Services functions of General Administration, Accounting and Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal and Regulatory and Members Forms), staff members develop accurate timesheet allocations between division codes.

Divisional separation with regard to statutory activities (Regional Entity division) and non-statutory activities (Criteria Services division) is reflected in the NPCC balance sheet and general ledger through the MIP Fund Accounting software programs.

NPCC shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that NPCC submits its annual budget request to NERC pursuant to Section 1. NPCC's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of NPCC's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. NPCC agrees that no costs of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of NPCC's charges for its activities pursuant to this Agreement.

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if NPCC determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, NPCC shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in NPCC's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct NPCC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit NPCC's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to NPCC with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of NPCC, including records used to prepare NPCC's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by NPCC pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. NPCC shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

9. Costs Associated with Cross-Regional Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement

The costs associated with any Cross-Regional Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement performed by NPCC pursuant to Section 6(f) of this Agreement with respect to registered functions of another Regional Entity are to be funded by payments from the Regional Entity contracting with NPCC for such services, in accordance with the contract between NPCC and the other Regional Entity. Where such a contract has been entered into, NPCC will include a description of the resources it has budgeted to perform such services, and its estimated costs (including appropriate allocation of NPCC's General and Administrative costs) to perform such services, in each budget year, in NPCC's annual business plan and budget that is submitted to NERC and the Commission for approval.

Attachment 6

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.
Redline

EXECUTION VERSION

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION AND NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING COUNCIL, INC.

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, ~~2016~~2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (“NPCC”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries ~~identified~~described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and NPCC may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the

delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as NPCC, provided that:

(A) The Regional Entity is governed by —

~~(i)~~ an independent board;

~~(ii)(i) a balanced stakeholder board;~~ or

~~(iii)(ii)~~ a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, NPCC is not organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is not entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through NPCC to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that NPCC meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and NPCC, having operated under a predecessor agreement to

this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and NPCC agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to NPCC to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, NPCC hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) NPCC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. NPCC is governed in accordance with its bylaws by [a](#)

hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any NPCC decision and no single industry sector can veto any NPCC decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other NPCC corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

(ii) NPCC has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. NPCC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. NPCC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, nonindependent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. NPCC's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with NPCC and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

~~(ii)(iii)~~ (iii) NPCC has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that NPCC may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

~~(iii)(iv)~~ (iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, NPCC has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to within NPCC as reflected on NERC's geographic boundaries as shown in Exhibit A Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to NPCC that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement

and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, NPCC shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) NPCC shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of NPCC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of NPCC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and NPCC shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon NPCC.

4. **Delegation of Authority.**

~~(a)~~—Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of NPCC in this Agreement, NPCC’s corporate governance documents, the NPCC’s standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to NPCC for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**, ~~provided, that NPCC shall not monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards for NPCC or an affiliated entity with respect to reliability functions for which NPCC or an affiliate is a Registered Entity.~~ Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to NPCC within, or additions to this delegation of authority to NPCC beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

~~(b)(a) In circumstances where NPCC or an affiliated entity is a Registered Entity, NPCC shall enter into an agreement with another Regional Entity or NERC for the other Regional Entity or NERC to monitor and enforce NPCC’s or affiliate’s compliance with Reliability Standards. Such agreements are subject to NERC and Commission approval.~~

~~(e)(b)~~ Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit NPCC from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

~~(d)(c)~~ For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both NPCC and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

~~(e)(d)~~ As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, NPCC shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC’s

Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, NPCC shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords NPCC reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards through NPCC's process. NPCC's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to NPCC's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through NPCC's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. NPCC may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not

find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, NPCC shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and NPCC agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. NPCC may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NPCC agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) NPCC shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) NPCC shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by NPCC, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and NPCC

shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by NPCC of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, NPCC shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. ~~A Regional Entity may have stakeholders lead or participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.~~

(f) NPCC may also perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of the boundaries shown in **Exhibit A**, on behalf of a Regional Entity that is unable to perform such activities with respect to one or more registered entities within its footprint due to a conflict of interest. Such activities shall be performed pursuant to a contract between NPCC and other such Regional Entity that is approved by both NERC and the Commission.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage NPCC on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by NPCC in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as**

responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by NPCC and other Regional Entities. NPCC shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** NPCC shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. NPCC shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** NPCC shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and NPCC shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration

with NERC, NPCC shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** NPCC may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** NPCC shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** NPCC shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of NPCC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and NPCC that matters relating to NERC's oversight of NPCC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and NPCC and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with NPCC and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and NPCC's performance of their respective functions and related activities.

The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. NPCC shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate NPCC's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate NPCC's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to NPCC on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, NPCC and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, NPCC shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of NPCC's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring NPCC to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to NPCC of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for NPCC to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of NPCC's performance and the need for an action plan. NPCC may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and NPCC shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of NPCC's action plan. A final action plan submitted by NPCC to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to NPCC standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from NPCC and other Regional Entities, for NPCC personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to NPCC concerning the manner in which NPCC shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The

NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered “directives.” NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with NPCC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and NPCC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, NPCC, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by NPCC, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without NPCC’s agreement, *provided*, that NPCC shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and NPCC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which NPCC, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any

such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. NPCC, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with NPCC, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of NPCC on a reasonable periodicity to determine NPCC's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. NPCC and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) NPCC shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. NPCC's proposed business

plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, NPCC to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. NPCC's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) NPCC and NERC agree that the portion of NPCC's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by NPCC and approved by NERC and the Commission. If NPCC proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, NPCC shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and NPCC to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide NPCC with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) NPCC shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of NPCC, to NERC for review and

approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund NPCC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with NPCC's Commission-approved business plan and budget, in the amount of NPCC's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting NPCC's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to NPCC, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon NPCC that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without NPCC's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and NPCC fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. NPCC shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) NPCC shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) NPCC shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which NPCC shall offset penalty monies it receives (~~other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of NPCC~~) against its next year's annual budget for

carrying out functions under this Agreement, ~~and the mechanism by which NPCC shall transmit to NERC any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of NPCC.~~ *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, NPCC may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. NPCC may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit NPCC from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided NPCC retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, ~~2016~~2021 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date (“Term”), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that NPCC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If NPCC meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that NPCC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement ~~as of the end of a term~~ by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of NPCC’s Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be

effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by NPCC and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. NPCC and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and NPCC shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of NPCC's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that NPCC or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case NPCC or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their

respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained

herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of NPCC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of NPCC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent NPCC does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of NPCC under this Agreement, NPCC shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by NPCC to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by NPCC and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and NPCC (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to NPCC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. NPCC shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution

mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to NPCC:

Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.
1040 Avenue of the Americas
10th Floor
New York, New York 10018
Attn: Edward Schwerdt
Email: eschwerdt@npcc.org

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties

hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that NPCC may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. Execution of Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

NORTHEAST POWER COORDINATING
COUNCIL, INC.

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

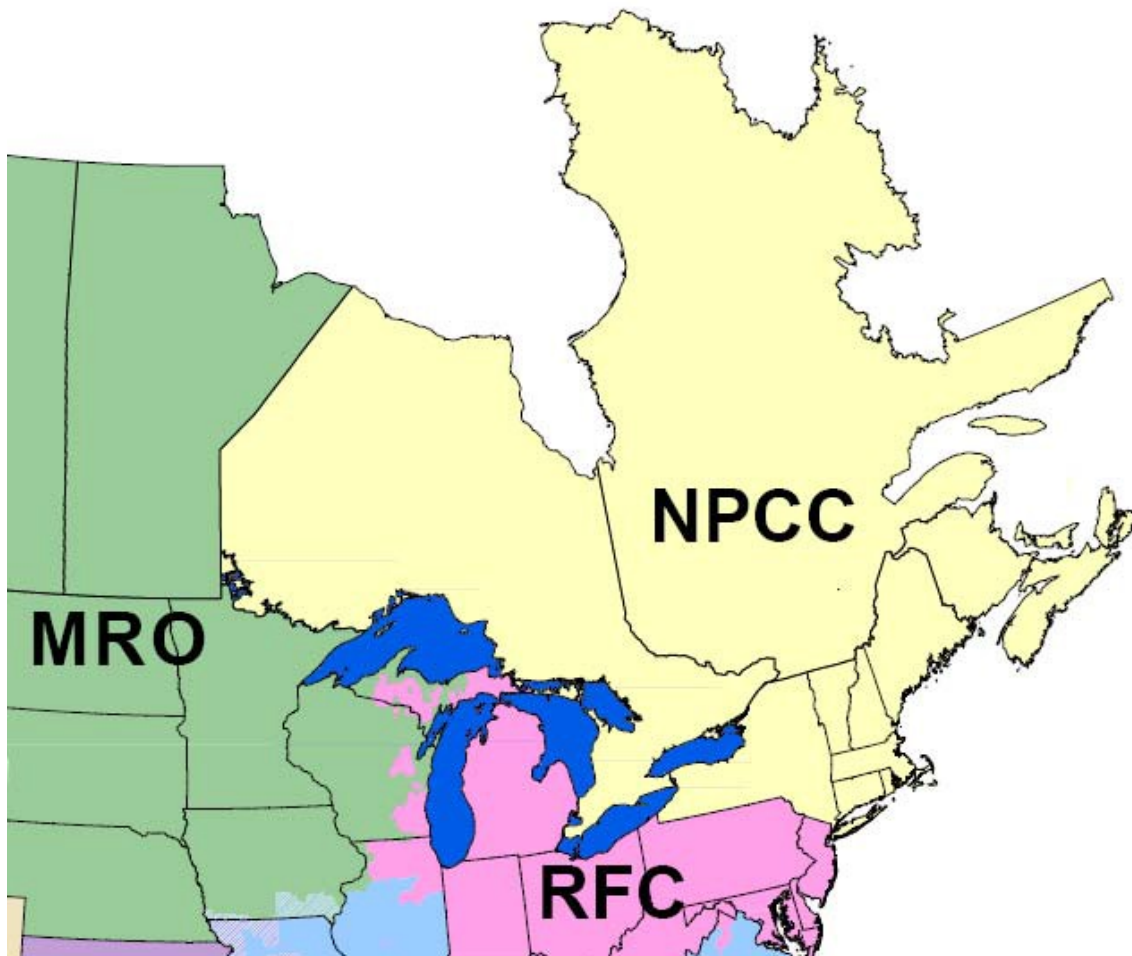
Date: _____



Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (NPCC) Exhibit A – Geographic Area

NPCC is a not for profit entity committed to safeguarding and improving reliability of the Bulk Power System in all or part of the states of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, in addition to The geographic area covered by NPCC includes New York state, the six New England states, and Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in Canada. The geographic boundaries of NPCC are determined by the service areas as documented in the NERC Compliance Registry and in accordance with MOUs and similar agreements.

The total population served is approximately 56 million. The area covered is approximately 1.2 million square miles.



~~NPCC may also perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of the region shown above, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, such activities~~



~~undertaken pursuant to a contract between NPCC and such other Regional Entity that is approved by NERC and the Commission.~~

Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board, ~~a balanced stakeholder board,~~ or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. (~~Federal Power Act § 215(e)(4)(A), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(1), Order No. 672 at ¶ 727.~~)

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]



Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.

Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

1.1 Obligations of NPCC

NPCC will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within the U.S. portion of NPCC's geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement, subject to any deviations from the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program described in Section 1.2 below (the "Compliance Program"). NPCC has adopted the Consolidated Hearing Process for hearings conducted regarding U.S. matters.

1.2 Deviations from the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

Compliance monitoring and enforcement programs will be implemented within the Canadian portion of NPCC's geographic area, consistent with individual Canadian Provincial Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) or Agreements and Canadian laws. All executed MOUs and Agreements will be provided to NERC as allowable under Canadian law.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

NPCC has adopted the Consolidated Hearing Process consistent with Rules of Procedure 403.15.B. to conduct hearings and issue decisions concerning disputed compliance matters in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, of Appendix 4C.

However, consistent with the Rules of Procedure and NPCC's bylaws, NPCC may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to the decision becoming effective. To the extent required by the Rules of Procedure, NPCC bylaws and other agreements, NPCC, to the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, shall would establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a registered entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan. ~~The NPCC Compliance Committee, reporting to the NPCC Board, will be responsible for impaneling a Hearing Body, when required.~~ The regional Hearing Body ~~would~~ consist of an independent Hearing Officer and two (2) Independent Directors. The Hearing Officer, who is not a member of ~~the Compliance Committee, the NPCC Board, or NPCC Staff, will would~~ conduct the hearing. The Hearing Body ~~will would~~ utilize a simple majority vote to resolve issues. This voting rule, along with the structure of the Hearing Body, fully supports the requirement that no two stakeholder sectors may control, and no single stakeholder



sector may veto, a matter before the Hearing Body.

To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, **NPCC** shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a registered entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: None

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

NPCC Management, based on the review and recommendations of Compliance Staff, will be the sole decision-making body to review and make final determinations on each potential noncompliance identified by any means.

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

NPCC shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and NPCC, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of NPCC's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require NPCC (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of NPCC's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by NPCC Board of Directors to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of NPCC's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The NPCC business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including NPCC's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. NPCC's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve NPCC's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct NPCC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval.

NERC shall submit NPCC's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of NPCC's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. NPCC shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying NPCC's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of NPCC's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified by NPCC covering the NERC and NPCC assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, NPCC shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, NPCC is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within NPCC's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within NPCC's region.

(c) Upon approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities of NPCC's annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay NPCC's annual assessment to NPCC in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by NPCC, other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of NPCC, shall be applied as a general offset to NPCC's budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the

investigating entity. Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of NPCC shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.

6. Budget and Funding for NPCC's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), NPCC's Criteria Services division performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section as "non-statutory activities"):

NPCC List of Criteria Services Division Functions (Non-Statutory Activities)

1. Regionally-specific Criteria
 - NPCC develops and maintains Regionally-specific more stringent criteria
 - NPCC develops and maintains criteria establishing resource adequacy requirements within the region
2. Criteria Compliance Program
 - NPCC monitors and assesses compliance with its more stringent regional criteria
 - NPCC conducts a Reliability Compliance and Enforcement Program (RCEP) utilizing non-monetary sanctions

NPCC shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its Regional Entity division (statutory activities) separate from its funding mechanisms for its Criteria Services division (non- statutory activities), and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions:

1. Funding of NPCC Criteria Services Division (non-statutory activities). A separate membership based funding mechanism is utilized for non-statutory activities.
2. NPCC procedures for separating funding and expenditures for Regional Entity division (statutory activities) and criteria services division (non-statutory activities)

NPCC utilizes the NERC System of Accounts (NSOA) to provide consistency for account codes, divisional separation codes and activity codes. In August of 2007, NPCC CBRE (which prior to the merger performed statutory activities) merged into and with Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (referred to as NPCC) (which prior to the merger performed non-statutory activities) with the merged corporation having divisional separation for Regional Entity and Criteria Services. As recommended by NERC, NPCC uses the not-for-profit MIP Fund Accounting program by Sage Software to accurately account for income, time and labor. Effective January 1, 2008, with corporate restructuring of NPCC completed in later 2007, 2008 actual program costs are being charged to appropriate program

areas.

NPCC does not conduct resource or transmission planning, is not an Independent System Operator (ISO), nor does it perform the functions of a Reliability Coordinator (RC). As such, while at this time, there is a breakout for Criteria related activities, all functions performed by NPCC are in the furtherance of NERC's statutory mission and reliability of the international bulk power system in Northeastern North America.

Methodology

NPCC's revenue and expenditure classification methodology identifies appropriate methods of accounting for income, time and costs to ensure that U.S. Federal/statutory and Canadian provincial and/or governmental authorities' agreed upon revenue and expenses are accounted for separately from NPCC's Regionally-specific Criteria development and Criteria compliance (non-statutory) income, time and expense.

Division Codes

There are two division codes that are used by NPCC in accounting for revenues and expenses. The codes are as follows:

Division ID	Division Name
RE	Regional Entity – U.S. Statutory and Canadian Regulatory and/or Governmental Authority authorized
CSD	Criteria Services - Non-Statutory

The two division codes allow NPCC to separate Regional Entity statutory activity revenues and expenses from Criteria Services non-statutory activity revenues and expenses. These categories were developed to ensure that non-statutory related revenues and expenses are segregated and accounted for separately from statutory-related revenues and expenses.

Program Codes

As required by NERC, NPCC adopted a financial accounting system consistent with NERC's functional categories. At NPCC, functional categories are referred to as Program Codes.

There are twelve program codes that are used by NPCC in accounting for expenses. The codes are as follows:

Program ID	Program Name
300	Reliability Standards
400	Compliance Enforcement and Organization Registration and Certification
800	Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis
700	Reliability Readiness Evaluation and Improvement
900	Training and Education
1000	Situational Awareness and Infrastructure Security
ADMIN	General Administration
FINANCE	Accounting and Finance
HR	Human Resources
IT	Information Technology
LEGAL	Legal and Regulatory
MEMBERS	Members Forum

Program codes are used to further delineate expenses into functional groupings that are assigned to program heads. NPCC staff utilize their assigned program codes (the program where they reside for payroll purposes) when coding expenses, unless otherwise authorized by management.

When time is spent in support of both statutory activities and non-statutory activities (applicable to a limited number of employees in the Administrative Services functions of General Administration, Accounting and Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal and Regulatory and Members Forms), staff members develop accurate timesheet allocations between division codes.

Divisional separation with regard to statutory activities (Regional Entity division) and non-statutory activities (Criteria Services division) is reflected in the NPCC balance sheet and general ledger through the MIP Fund Accounting software programs.

NPCC shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that NPCC submits its annual budget request to NERC pursuant to Section 1. NPCC's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of NPCC's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. NPCC agrees that no costs of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of NPCC's charges for its activities pursuant to this Agreement.

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if NPCC determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, NPCC shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in NPCC's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct NPCC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit NPCC's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to NPCC with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of NPCC, including records used to prepare NPCC's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by NPCC pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. NPCC shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

9. Costs Associated with Cross-Regional Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement

The costs associated with any Cross-Regional Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement performed by NPCC pursuant to Section 6(f) of this Agreement with respect to registered functions of another Regional Entity are to be funded by payments from the Regional Entity contracting with NPCC for such services, in accordance with the contract between NPCC and the other Regional Entity. Where such a contract has been entered into, NPCC will include a description of the resources it has budgeted to perform such services, and its estimated costs (including appropriate allocation of NPCC's General and Administrative costs) to perform such services, in each budget year, in NPCC's annual business plan and budget that is submitted to NERC and the Commission for approval.

Attachment 7

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with ReliabilityFirst Corporation Clean

**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND RELIABILITYFIRST CORPORATION**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, 2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and ReliabilityFirst Corporation (“ReliabilityFirst”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and ReliabilityFirst may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the

delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as ReliabilityFirst, provided that:

- (A) The Regional Entity is governed by —
 - (i) an independent board; or
 - (ii) a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, ReliabilityFirst is not organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is not entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through ReliabilityFirst to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that ReliabilityFirst meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and ReliabilityFirst, having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to

incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and ReliabilityFirst agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to ReliabilityFirst to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, ReliabilityFirst hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) ReliabilityFirst is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. ReliabilityFirst is governed in accordance with its bylaws by a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced

stakeholder board members. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any ReliabilityFirst decision and no single industry sector can veto any ReliabilityFirst decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other ReliabilityFirst corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

(ii) ReliabilityFirst has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. ReliabilityFirst has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. ReliabilityFirst has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, nonindependent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

(iii) ReliabilityFirst has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that ReliabilityFirst may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

(iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, ReliabilityFirst has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to ReliabilityFirst as reflected on NERC's Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to ReliabilityFirst that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) ReliabilityFirst shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of ReliabilityFirst, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon ReliabilityFirst.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of ReliabilityFirst in this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst's corporate governance documents, ReliabilityFirst's standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to ReliabilityFirst for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**. Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to ReliabilityFirst within, or additions to this delegation of authority to ReliabilityFirst beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

(b) Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit ReliabilityFirst from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

(c) For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both ReliabilityFirst and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

(d) As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, ReliabilityFirst shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process

for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords ReliabilityFirst reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards through ReliabilityFirst's process. ReliabilityFirst's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to ReliabilityFirst's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through ReliabilityFirst's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. ReliabilityFirst may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and

Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and ReliabilityFirst agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. ReliabilityFirst may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) ReliabilityFirst shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) ReliabilityFirst shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by ReliabilityFirst, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by ReliabilityFirst of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, ReliabilityFirst

shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), ReliabilityFirst may have stakeholders participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage ReliabilityFirst on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by ReliabilityFirst in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities. ReliabilityFirst shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and

decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** ReliabilityFirst shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. ReliabilityFirst shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** ReliabilityFirst shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, ReliabilityFirst shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** ReliabilityFirst may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** ReliabilityFirst shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-

Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** ReliabilityFirst shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and ReliabilityFirst that matters relating to NERC's oversight of ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and ReliabilityFirst's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. ReliabilityFirst shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate ReliabilityFirst's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate ReliabilityFirst's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to ReliabilityFirst on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, ReliabilityFirst and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, ReliabilityFirst shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of ReliabilityFirst's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring ReliabilityFirst to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to ReliabilityFirst of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for ReliabilityFirst to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of ReliabilityFirst's performance and the need for an action plan. ReliabilityFirst may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of ReliabilityFirst's action plan. A final action plan submitted by ReliabilityFirst to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to ReliabilityFirst standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities, for ReliabilityFirst personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to ReliabilityFirst concerning the manner in which ReliabilityFirst shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered "directives." NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, ReliabilityFirst, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by ReliabilityFirst, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without ReliabilityFirst's agreement, *provided*, that ReliabilityFirst shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which ReliabilityFirst, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. ReliabilityFirst, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with ReliabilityFirst, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the

exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of ReliabilityFirst on a reasonable periodicity to determine ReliabilityFirst's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f) respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. ReliabilityFirst and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) ReliabilityFirst shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, ReliabilityFirst to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) ReliabilityFirst and NERC agree that the portion of ReliabilityFirst's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the

geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by ReliabilityFirst and approved by NERC and the Commission. If ReliabilityFirst proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, ReliabilityFirst shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and ReliabilityFirst to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide ReliabilityFirst with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) ReliabilityFirst shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of ReliabilityFirst, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with ReliabilityFirst's Commission-approved business plan and budget, in the amount of ReliabilityFirst's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting ReliabilityFirst's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to ReliabilityFirst, unless otherwise modified and approved by

NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon ReliabilityFirst that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without ReliabilityFirst's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and ReliabilityFirst fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. ReliabilityFirst shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) ReliabilityFirst shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) ReliabilityFirst shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which ReliabilityFirst shall offset penalty monies it receives against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement. *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, ReliabilityFirst may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. ReliabilityFirst may not delegate in whole or in part its

Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit ReliabilityFirst from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided ReliabilityFirst retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2021 (the "Effective Date").

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date ("Term"), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that ReliabilityFirst continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If ReliabilityFirst meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of

the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that ReliabilityFirst continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of ReliabilityFirst's Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by ReliabilityFirst and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. ReliabilityFirst and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and ReliabilityFirst

shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of ReliabilityFirst's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that ReliabilityFirst or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case ReliabilityFirst or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-

party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of ReliabilityFirst,

which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent ReliabilityFirst does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by ReliabilityFirst to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by ReliabilityFirst and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and ReliabilityFirst (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to ReliabilityFirst's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. ReliabilityFirst shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the

dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is

preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to ReliabilityFirst:

ReliabilityFirst Corporation
3 Summit Park Drive
Suite 600
Cleveland, Ohio 44131
Attn: Timothy Gallagher, President
Email: tim.gallagher@rfirst.org

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that ReliabilityFirst may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to

maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. Execution of Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

RELIABILITYFIRST CORPORATION

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit A — Regional Boundaries

ReliabilityFirst is a not for profit entity committed to safeguarding and improving reliability of the Bulk Power System in all or part of the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. The geographic boundaries of Reliability First are determined by the service areas of its membership as documented in the NERC Compliance Registry.

Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]

Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

ReliabilityFirst will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within **ReliabilityFirst's** geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

ReliabilityFirst has adopted the Consolidated Hearing Process consistent with Rules of Procedure 403.15.B. to conduct hearings and issue decisions concerning disputed compliance matters in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, of Appendix 4C.

However, consistent with the Rules of Procedure and **ReliabilityFirst's** bylaws, **ReliabilityFirst** may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to such modification becoming effective. **ReliabilityFirst**, to the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either **ReliabilityFirst's** board, a committee of the board, a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to **ReliabilityFirst's** board or an independent hearing panel. **ReliabilityFirst's** hearing body is a composition of members of the **ReliabilityFirst** Compliance Committee as established by the Board of Directors of ReliabilityFirst as set out in the ReliabilityFirst Compliance Committee Charter. No two industry sectors may control any decision and no single segment may veto any matter brought before the Hearing Body either before or after any recusals or disqualifications.

To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, **ReliabilityFirst** shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: None.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

None.

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

ReliabilityFirst shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and ReliabilityFirst, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require ReliabilityFirst (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by ReliabilityFirst Board of Trustees to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The ReliabilityFirst business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including ReliabilityFirst's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of

this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct ReliabilityFirst to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit ReliabilityFirst's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of ReliabilityFirst's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. ReliabilityFirst shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying ReliabilityFirst's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of ReliabilityFirst's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified by ReliabilityFirst covering the NERC and ReliabilityFirst assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, ReliabilityFirst shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, ReliabilityFirst is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within ReliabilityFirst's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within ReliabilityFirst's region.

(c) Upon approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities of ReliabilityFirst's annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay ReliabilityFirst's annual assessment to ReliabilityFirst in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by ReliabilityFirst, other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of ReliabilityFirst, shall be applied as a general offset to ReliabilityFirst's

budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity. Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of ReliabilityFirst shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.

6. Budget and Funding for ReliabilityFirst's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), ReliabilityFirst performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"): **None**

ReliabilityFirst shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions: **Not applicable**

ReliabilityFirst shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that ReliabilityFirst submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. ReliabilityFirst's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of ReliabilityFirst's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. ReliabilityFirst agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of ReliabilityFirst's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of ReliabilityFirst's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities. **Not applicable**

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if ReliabilityFirst determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, ReliabilityFirst shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in ReliabilityFirst's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct ReliabilityFirst to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit ReliabilityFirst's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to ReliabilityFirst with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of ReliabilityFirst, including records used to prepare ReliabilityFirst's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by ReliabilityFirst pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. ReliabilityFirst shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

Attachment 8

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with ReliabilityFirst Corporation Redline

EXECUTION VERSION

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION AND RELIABILITYFIRST CORPORATION

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, ~~2016~~2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and ReliabilityFirst Corporation (“ReliabilityFirst”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries ~~identified~~described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and ReliabilityFirst may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the

delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as ReliabilityFirst, provided that:

(A) The Regional Entity is governed by —

~~(i)~~ an independent board;

~~(ii)(i) a balanced stakeholder board;~~ or

~~(iii)(ii)~~ a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, ReliabilityFirst is not organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is not entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through ReliabilityFirst to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that ReliabilityFirst meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and ReliabilityFirst, having operated under a predecessor

agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and ReliabilityFirst agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to ReliabilityFirst to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, ReliabilityFirst hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) ReliabilityFirst is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. ReliabilityFirst is governed in accordance

with its bylaws by a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any ReliabilityFirst decision and no single industry sector can veto any ReliabilityFirst decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other ReliabilityFirst corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

~~(i)~~(ii) ReliabilityFirst has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. ReliabilityFirst has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. ReliabilityFirst has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, nonindependent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

~~(ii)~~(iii) ReliabilityFirst has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that ReliabilityFirst may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

~~(iii)~~(iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, ReliabilityFirst has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to within ReliabilityFirst as reflected on NERC's geographic boundaries as shown in **Exhibit A Compliance Registry**.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to ReliabilityFirst that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that

no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) ReliabilityFirst shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of ReliabilityFirst, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section

8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon ReliabilityFirst.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of ReliabilityFirst in this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst's corporate governance documents, ReliabilityFirst's standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to ReliabilityFirst for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**, ~~provided, that ReliabilityFirst shall not monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards for ReliabilityFirst or an affiliated entity with respect to reliability functions for which ReliabilityFirst or an affiliate is a Registered Entity.~~ Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to ReliabilityFirst within, or additions to this delegation of authority to ReliabilityFirst beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

~~(b) In circumstances where ReliabilityFirst or an affiliated entity is a Registered Entity, ReliabilityFirst shall enter into an agreement with another Regional Entity or NERC for the other Regional Entity or NERC to monitor and enforce ReliabilityFirst's or affiliate's compliance with Reliability Standards. Such agreements are subject to NERC and Commission approval.~~

~~(e)(b)~~ Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit ReliabilityFirst from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

~~(d)(c)~~ For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both ReliabilityFirst and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

~~(e)~~(d) As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, ReliabilityFirst shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords ReliabilityFirst reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards through ReliabilityFirst's process. ReliabilityFirst's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to ReliabilityFirst's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through ReliabilityFirst's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. ReliabilityFirst may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential,

and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and ReliabilityFirst agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. ReliabilityFirst may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) ReliabilityFirst shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) ReliabilityFirst shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by ReliabilityFirst, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to

time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by ReliabilityFirst of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, ReliabilityFirst shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. ~~Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), A Regional Entity ReliabilityFirst~~ may have stakeholders ~~lead or~~ participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage ReliabilityFirst on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by ReliabilityFirst in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of

owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities. ReliabilityFirst shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** ReliabilityFirst shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. ReliabilityFirst shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** ReliabilityFirst shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, ReliabilityFirst shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** ReliabilityFirst may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** ReliabilityFirst shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** ReliabilityFirst shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and ReliabilityFirst that matters relating to NERC's oversight of ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and ReliabilityFirst's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. ReliabilityFirst shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with

established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate ReliabilityFirst's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate ReliabilityFirst's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to ReliabilityFirst on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, ReliabilityFirst and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, ReliabilityFirst shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of ReliabilityFirst's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring ReliabilityFirst to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to ReliabilityFirst of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for ReliabilityFirst to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of ReliabilityFirst's performance and the need for an action plan. ReliabilityFirst may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of ReliabilityFirst's action plan. A final action plan submitted by ReliabilityFirst to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to ReliabilityFirst standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from ReliabilityFirst and other Regional Entities, for ReliabilityFirst personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to ReliabilityFirst concerning the manner in which ReliabilityFirst shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this

Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered “directives.” NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, ReliabilityFirst, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by ReliabilityFirst, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without ReliabilityFirst’s agreement, *provided*, that ReliabilityFirst shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and ReliabilityFirst and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which ReliabilityFirst, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation

of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. ReliabilityFirst, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with ReliabilityFirst, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of ReliabilityFirst on a reasonable periodicity to determine ReliabilityFirst's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f) respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. ReliabilityFirst and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) ReliabilityFirst shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions.

ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, ReliabilityFirst to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) ReliabilityFirst and NERC agree that the portion of ReliabilityFirst's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by ReliabilityFirst and approved by NERC and the Commission. If ReliabilityFirst proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, ReliabilityFirst shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and ReliabilityFirst to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equity requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide ReliabilityFirst with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) ReliabilityFirst shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of ReliabilityFirst, to NERC for

review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund ReliabilityFirst's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with ReliabilityFirst's Commission-approved business plan and budget, in the amount of ReliabilityFirst's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting ReliabilityFirst's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to ReliabilityFirst, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon ReliabilityFirst that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without ReliabilityFirst's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and ReliabilityFirst fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. ReliabilityFirst shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) ReliabilityFirst shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) ReliabilityFirst shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which ReliabilityFirst shall offset penalty monies it receives ~~(other than penalty monies received from~~

~~an operational function or division or affiliated entity of ReliabilityFirst) against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement, and the mechanism by which ReliabilityFirst shall transmit to NERC any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of ReliabilityFirst.~~ *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, ReliabilityFirst may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. ReliabilityFirst may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit ReliabilityFirst from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided ReliabilityFirst retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or

been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, ~~2016~~2021 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date (“Term”), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that ReliabilityFirst continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If ReliabilityFirst meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that ReliabilityFirst continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement ~~as of the end of a term~~ by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of ReliabilityFirst’s Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable

resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by ReliabilityFirst and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. ReliabilityFirst and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and ReliabilityFirst shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of ReliabilityFirst's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that ReliabilityFirst or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case ReliabilityFirst or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate

protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is

exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of ReliabilityFirst, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent ReliabilityFirst does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of ReliabilityFirst under this Agreement, ReliabilityFirst shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by ReliabilityFirst to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by ReliabilityFirst and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and ReliabilityFirst (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to ReliabilityFirst's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. ReliabilityFirst shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution

procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated

representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to ReliabilityFirst:

ReliabilityFirst Corporation
3 Summit Park Drive
Suite 600
Cleveland, Ohio 44131
Attn: Timothy Gallagher, President
Email: tim.gallagher@rfirst.org

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this

Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that ReliabilityFirst may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. Execution of Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

RELIABILITYFIRST CORPORATION

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit A — Regional Boundaries

ReliabilityFirst is a not for profit entity committed to safeguarding and improving reliability of the Bulk Power System in all or part of the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. The geographic boundaries of Reliability First are determined by the service areas of its membership as documented in the NERC Compliance Registry.

~~The Boundaries of ReliabilityFirst Corporation (ReliabilityFirst) are defined by the service territories of Load Serving Entities (LSEs) and include all of New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Lower Michigan and portions of Upper Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia as shown on the map below. In addition, transmission systems and generation within the metered boundaries of the LSEs are within ReliabilityFirst even if outside the respective service territories shown. The area is electrically contiguous.~~

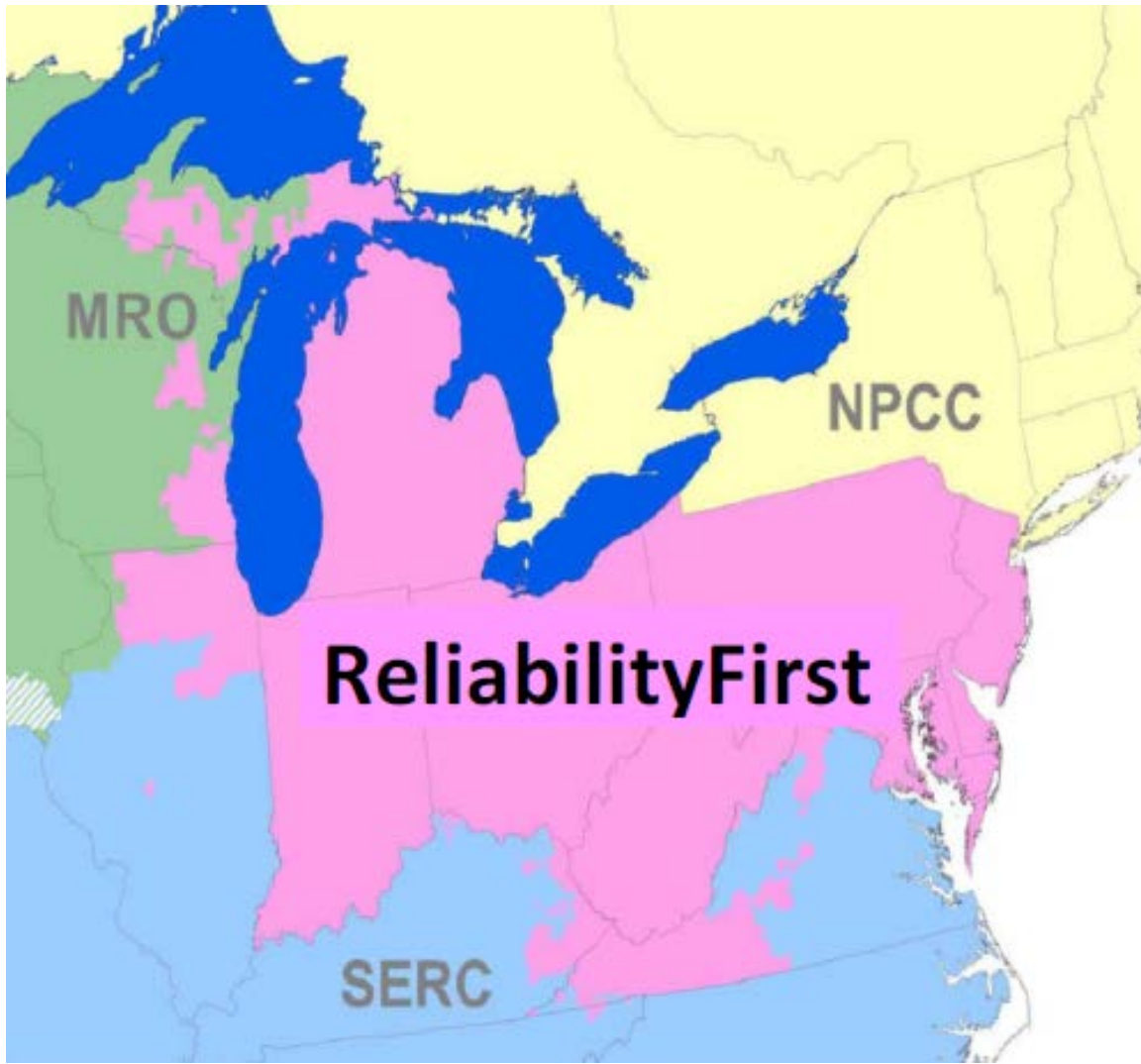


Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board, ~~a balanced stakeholder board,~~ or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. (~~Federal Power Act § 215(e)(4)(A), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(1), Order No. 672 at ¶ 727.~~)

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]

Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

ReliabilityFirst will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within **ReliabilityFirst's** geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

ReliabilityFirst has adopted the Consolidated Hearing Process consistent with Rules of Procedure 403.15.B. to conduct hearings and issue decisions concerning disputed compliance matters in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, of Appendix 4C.

However, consistent with the Rules of Procedure and **ReliabilityFirst's** bylaws, **ReliabilityFirst** may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to such modification becoming effective. **ReliabilityFirst**, to the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either **ReliabilityFirst's** board, a committee of the board, a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to **ReliabilityFirst's** board or an independent hearing panel. **ReliabilityFirst's** hearing body is a composition of members of the **ReliabilityFirst** Compliance Committee as established by the Board of Directors of ReliabilityFirst as set out in the ReliabilityFirst Compliance Committee Charter. No two industry sectors may control any decision and no single segment may veto any matter brought before the Hearing Body either before or after any recusals or disqualifications.

To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, **ReliabilityFirst** shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: None.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

None.

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

ReliabilityFirst shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and ReliabilityFirst, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require ReliabilityFirst (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by ReliabilityFirst Board of Trustees to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The ReliabilityFirst business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including ReliabilityFirst's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. ReliabilityFirst's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve ReliabilityFirst's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of

this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct ReliabilityFirst to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit ReliabilityFirst's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of ReliabilityFirst's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. ReliabilityFirst shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying ReliabilityFirst's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of ReliabilityFirst's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified by ReliabilityFirst covering the NERC and ReliabilityFirst assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, ReliabilityFirst shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, ReliabilityFirst is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within ReliabilityFirst's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within ReliabilityFirst's region.

(c) Upon approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities of ReliabilityFirst's annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay ReliabilityFirst's annual assessment to ReliabilityFirst in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by ReliabilityFirst, other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of ReliabilityFirst, shall be applied as a general offset to ReliabilityFirst's

budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity. Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of ReliabilityFirst shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.

6. Budget and Funding for ReliabilityFirst's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), ReliabilityFirst performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"): **None**

ReliabilityFirst shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions: **Not applicable**

ReliabilityFirst shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that ReliabilityFirst submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. ReliabilityFirst's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of ReliabilityFirst's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. ReliabilityFirst agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of ReliabilityFirst's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of ReliabilityFirst's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities. **Not applicable**

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if ReliabilityFirst determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, ReliabilityFirst shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in ReliabilityFirst's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct ReliabilityFirst to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit ReliabilityFirst's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to ReliabilityFirst with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of ReliabilityFirst, including records used to prepare ReliabilityFirst's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by ReliabilityFirst pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. ReliabilityFirst shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

Attachment 9

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with SERC Reliability Corporation
Clean

**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND SERC RELIABILITY CORPORATION**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, 2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and SERC Reliability Corporation (“SERC”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and SERC may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as SERC, provided that:

Amended and Restated SERC Regional Delegation Agreement

- (A) The Regional Entity is governed by —
 - (i) an independent board; or
 - (ii) a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder members.
- (B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and
- (C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, SERC is not organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is not entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through SERC to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that SERC meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and SERC, having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of

their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and SERC agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to SERC to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, SERC hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) SERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. SERC is governed in accordance with its bylaws by a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any SERC decision and no single industry sector can veto any SERC decision. The relevant criteria for the

establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other SERC corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

(ii) SERC has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. SERC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. SERC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, nonindependent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

(iii) SERC has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that SERC may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

(iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, SERC has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to SERC as reflected on NERC's Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to SERC that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, SERC shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) SERC shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of SERC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of SERC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and SERC shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon SERC.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of SERC in this Agreement, SERC's corporate governance documents, the SERC's standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC

hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to SERC for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**. Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to SERC within, or additions to this delegation of authority to SERC beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

(b) Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit SERC from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

(c) For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both SERC and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

(d) As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, SERC shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, SERC shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords SERC reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards through SERC's process. SERC's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any

changes to SERC's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through SERC's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. SERC may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, SERC shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and SERC agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit

program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. SERC may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, SERC agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) SERC shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) SERC shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by SERC, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and SERC shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by SERC of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, SERC shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), SERC may have

stakeholders participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

(f) SERC may also perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of the boundaries shown in **Exhibit A**, on behalf of a Regional Entity that is unable to perform such activities with respect to one or more registered entities within its footprint due to a conflict of interest. Such activities shall be performed pursuant to a contract between SERC and other such Regional Entity that is approved by both NERC and the Commission.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage SERC on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by SERC in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by SERC and other Regional Entities. SERC shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** SERC shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. SERC shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** SERC shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and SERC shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, SERC shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** SERC may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** SERC shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of

NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** SERC shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of SERC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and SERC that matters relating to NERC's oversight of SERC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and SERC and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with SERC and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and SERC's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. SERC shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate SERC's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate SERC's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to SERC on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, SERC and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, SERC shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of SERC's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring SERC to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to SERC of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for SERC to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of SERC's performance and the need for an action plan. SERC may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and SERC shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of SERC's action plan. A final action plan submitted by SERC to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to SERC standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from SERC and other Regional Entities, for SERC personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to SERC concerning the manner in which SERC shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered "directives." NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with SERC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and SERC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, SERC, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption,

implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by SERC, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without SERC's agreement, *provided*, that SERC shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and SERC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which SERC, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. SERC, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with SERC, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of SERC on a reasonable periodicity to determine SERC's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. SERC and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) SERC shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. SERC's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, SERC to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. SERC's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) SERC and NERC agree that the portion of SERC's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by SERC and approved by NERC and the

Commission. If SERC proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, SERC shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and SERC to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide SERC with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) SERC shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of SERC, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund SERC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with SERC's Commission- approved business plan and budget, in the amount of SERC's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting SERC's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to SERC, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon SERC that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or

supplemental business plan and budget, without SERC's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and SERC fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. SERC shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) SERC shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) SERC shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which SERC shall offset penalty monies it receives against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement. *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, SERC may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. SERC may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit SERC from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided SERC retains control and responsibility for such

Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the “Default Notice”). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2021 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date (“Term”), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that SERC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If SERC meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that SERC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to

the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of SERC's Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by SERC and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. SERC and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and SERC shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the

performance of SERC's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that SERC or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case SERC or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt

notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of SERC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of SERC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent SERC does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting

the rights or obligations of SERC under this Agreement, SERC shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by SERC to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by SERC and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and SERC (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to SERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. SERC shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated

representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to SERC:

SERC Reliability Corporation
3701 Arco Corporate Drive
Suite 300
Charlotte, NC 28273
Attn: President and CEO
Email: jblake@serc1.org

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that SERC may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit**

A.

23. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. **Execution of Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

SERC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

SERC Regional Boundaries

Exhibit A to the Amended and Restated Regional Entity Delegation Agreement between

**North American Electric Reliability Corporation
and
SERC Reliability Corporation**



1.0 Regional Boundaries

SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC) is a not for profit entity committed to safeguarding and improving reliability of the Bulk Power System covering an area of approximately 630,000 square miles in sixteen states: all of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina; most of Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Tennessee; and portions of Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia.

The geographic boundaries of SERC are determined by the service areas of its membership, comprised of investor-owned utilities, municipal, cooperative, state and federal systems, merchant electricity generators, and power marketers, and as documented in the NERC Compliance Registry.

Service provided by SERC members in areas which overlap with neighboring regions include:

- The area in southern Iowa is served by N.E. Missouri Electric Power Cooperative, a member of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., and N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, a member of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- The area in eastern Oklahoma is served by KAMO Electric Cooperative, Inc., a member of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- The area in western Missouri is served by N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, a member of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., and KAMO Electric Cooperative, Inc., a member of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]

**SERC Compliance Monitoring and
Enforcement Program**

**Exhibit D
to the
Amended and Restated
Regional Entity Delegation Agreement
between**

**North American Electric Reliability Corporation
and
SERC Reliability Corporation**



Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

SERC Reliability Corporation (“SERC”) will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within SERC’s geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

SERC has adopted the Consolidated Hearing Process consistent with Rules of Procedure 403.15.B. to conduct hearings and issue decisions concerning disputed compliance matters in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program.

However, consistent with the Rules of Procedure and SERC’s bylaws, SERC may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to the decision becoming effective. To the extent required by the Rules of Procedure, SERC bylaws and other agreements, SERC shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either SERC’s board, a committee of the board, a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to SERC’s board, or an independent hearing panel.

SERC’s Hearing Body shall be established pursuant to Section 1.4.3 of Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, SERC shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: None.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

None.

SERC Funding

Exhibit E to the Amended and Restated Regional Entity Delegation Agreement between

**North American Electric Reliability Corporation
and
SERC Reliability Corporation**



Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

SERC shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and SERC, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of SERC's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require SERC (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of SERC's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by SERC Board of Directors to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of SERC's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The SERC business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including SERC's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. SERC's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve SERC's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct SERC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit SERC's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget

submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of SERC's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. SERC shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying SERC's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of SERC's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified by SERC covering the NERC and SERC assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, SERC shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, SERC is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within SERC's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within SERC's region.

(c) Upon approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities of SERC's annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay SERC's annual assessment to SERC in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by SERC shall be applied as a general offset to SERC's budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity.

6. Budget and Funding for SERC's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and

activities referred to in this Section 6 as “statutory activities”), SERC performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"): None.

SERC shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions: Not applicable.

SERC shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that SERC submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. SERC’s budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of SERC’s non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. SERC agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of SERC’s general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of SERC’s assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities.

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if SERC determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, SERC shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in SERC’s approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct SERC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit SERC’s approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to SERC with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of SERC, including records used to prepare SERC’s financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by SERC pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. SERC shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

Attachment 10

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with SERC Reliability Corporation Redline

**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND SERC RELIABILITY CORPORATION**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, ~~2016~~2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and SERC Reliability Corporation (“SERC”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries ~~identified~~described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and SERC may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as SERC, provided that:

- (A) The Regional Entity is governed by —
- ~~(i)~~ an independent board;
 - ~~(ii)(i) a balanced stakeholder board;~~ or
 - ~~(iii)(ii)~~ a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder ~~board~~members.
- (B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and
- (C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, SERC is not organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is not entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through SERC to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that SERC meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and SERC, having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the

predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and SERC agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to SERC to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, SERC hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) SERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. SERC is governed in accordance with its bylaws by a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any SERC decision and

no single industry sector can veto any SERC decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other SERC corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

~~(i)~~(ii) SERC has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. SERC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. SERC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, nonindependent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

~~(ii)~~(iii) _____ SERC has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that SERC may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

~~(iii)~~(iv) _____ As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, SERC has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to within SERC as reflected on NERC's geographic boundaries as shown in Exhibit A Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to SERC that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, SERC shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) SERC shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of SERC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of SERC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and SERC shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon SERC.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of SERC in this Agreement, SERC's corporate governance documents, the SERC's standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to SERC for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**, ~~provided, that SERC shall not monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards for SERC or an affiliated entity with respect to reliability functions for which SERC or an affiliate is a Registered Entity.~~ Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to SERC within, or additions to this delegation of authority to SERC beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

~~(b) In circumstances where SERC or an affiliated entity is a Registered Entity, SERC shall enter into an agreement with another Regional Entity or NERC for the other Regional Entity or NERC to monitor and enforce SERC's or affiliate's compliance with Reliability Standards. Such agreements are subject to NERC and Commission approval.~~

~~(e)(b)~~ Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit SERC from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

~~(e)(c)~~ For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both SERC and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

~~(e)(d)~~ As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, SERC shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time

to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, SERC shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords SERC reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards through SERC's process. SERC's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to SERC's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through SERC's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. SERC may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has

been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, SERC shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and SERC agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. SERC may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, SERC agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) SERC shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) SERC shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by SERC, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and SERC shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall

from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by SERC of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, SERC shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), -A Regional Entity ~~SERC~~ may have stakeholders ~~lead or~~ participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

(f) SERC may also perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of the boundaries shown in **Exhibit A**, on behalf of a Regional Entity that is unable to perform such activities with respect to one or more registered entities within its footprint due to a conflict of interest. Such activities shall be performed pursuant to a contract between SERC and other such Regional Entity that is approved by both NERC and the Commission.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage SERC on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by SERC in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as**

responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by SERC and other Regional Entities. SERC shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** SERC shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. SERC shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** SERC shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and SERC shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources,

consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, SERC shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** SERC may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** SERC shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** SERC shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of SERC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and SERC that matters relating to NERC's oversight of SERC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and SERC and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with SERC and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and SERC's performance of their respective functions and related activities.

The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. SERC shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate SERC's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate SERC's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to SERC on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, SERC and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, SERC shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of SERC's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring SERC to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to SERC of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for SERC to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of SERC's performance and the need for an action plan. SERC may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and SERC shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of SERC's action plan. A final action plan submitted by SERC to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to SERC standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from SERC and other Regional Entities, for SERC personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to SERC concerning the manner in which SERC shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The

NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered “directives.” NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with SERC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and SERC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, SERC, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by SERC, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without SERC’s agreement, *provided*, that SERC shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and SERC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which SERC, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any

such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. SERC, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with SERC, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of SERC on a reasonable periodicity to determine SERC's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. SERC and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) SERC shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. SERC's proposed business

plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, SERC to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. SERC's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) SERC and NERC agree that the portion of SERC's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by SERC and approved by NERC and the Commission. If SERC proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, SERC shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and SERC to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide SERC with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) SERC shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of SERC, to NERC for review and

approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund SERC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with SERC's Commission- approved business plan and budget, in the amount of SERC's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting SERC's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to SERC, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon SERC that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without SERC's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and SERC fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. SERC shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) SERC shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) SERC shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which SERC shall offset penalty monies it receives (~~other than penalty monies received from an operational~~

~~function or division or affiliated entity of SERC~~) against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement, ~~and the mechanism by which SERC shall transmit to NERC any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of SERC.~~ *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, SERC may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. SERC may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit SERC from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided SERC retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, ~~2016~~2021 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date (“Term”), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that SERC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If SERC meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that SERC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement ~~as of the end of a term~~ by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of SERC’s Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be

effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by SERC and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. SERC and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and SERC shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of SERC's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that SERC or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case SERC or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of SERC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of SERC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent SERC does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of SERC under this Agreement, SERC shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by SERC to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by SERC and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and SERC (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to SERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. SERC shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party

describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution

mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to SERC:

SERC Reliability Corporation
3701 Arco Corporate Drive
Suite 300
Charlotte, NC 28273
Attn: President and CEO
Email: shenry@serc1.org; blake@serc1.org

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties

hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that SERC may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. Execution of Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

SERC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

SERC Regional Boundaries

Exhibit A to the Amended and Restated Regional Entity Delegation Agreement between

**North American Electric Reliability Corporation
and
SERC Reliability Corporation**



1.0 Regional Boundaries

~~The geographic boundaries of SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC) are determined by the service areas of its membership, comprised of investor-owned utilities, municipal, cooperative, state and federal systems, merchant electricity generators, and power marketers.~~

SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC) is a not for profit entity committed to safeguarding and improving reliability of the Bulk Power System covering ~~SERC covers~~ an area of approximately 630,000 square miles in sixteen states: all of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina; most of Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Tennessee; and portions of Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia.

The geographic boundaries of ~~SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC)~~ are determined by the service areas of its membership, comprised of investor-owned utilities, municipal, cooperative, state and federal systems, merchant electricity generators, and power marketers, and as documented in the NERC Compliance Registry.

Service provided by SERC members in areas which overlap with neighboring regions include:

- The area in southern Iowa is served by N.E. Missouri Electric Power Cooperative, a member of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., and N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, a member of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- The area in eastern Oklahoma is served by KAMO Electric Cooperative, Inc., a member of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- The area in western Missouri is served by N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, a member of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., and KAMO Electric Cooperative, Inc., a member of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

~~A regional map is show in Section 1.1.~~

~~SERC may also perform compliance and enforcement activities outside of the Regional Entity, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, such activities to be undertaken pursuant to a contract between the Regional Entities that is approved by the SERC Board, the NERC Board, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.~~

Regional Boundaries

1.1—SERC Regional Map

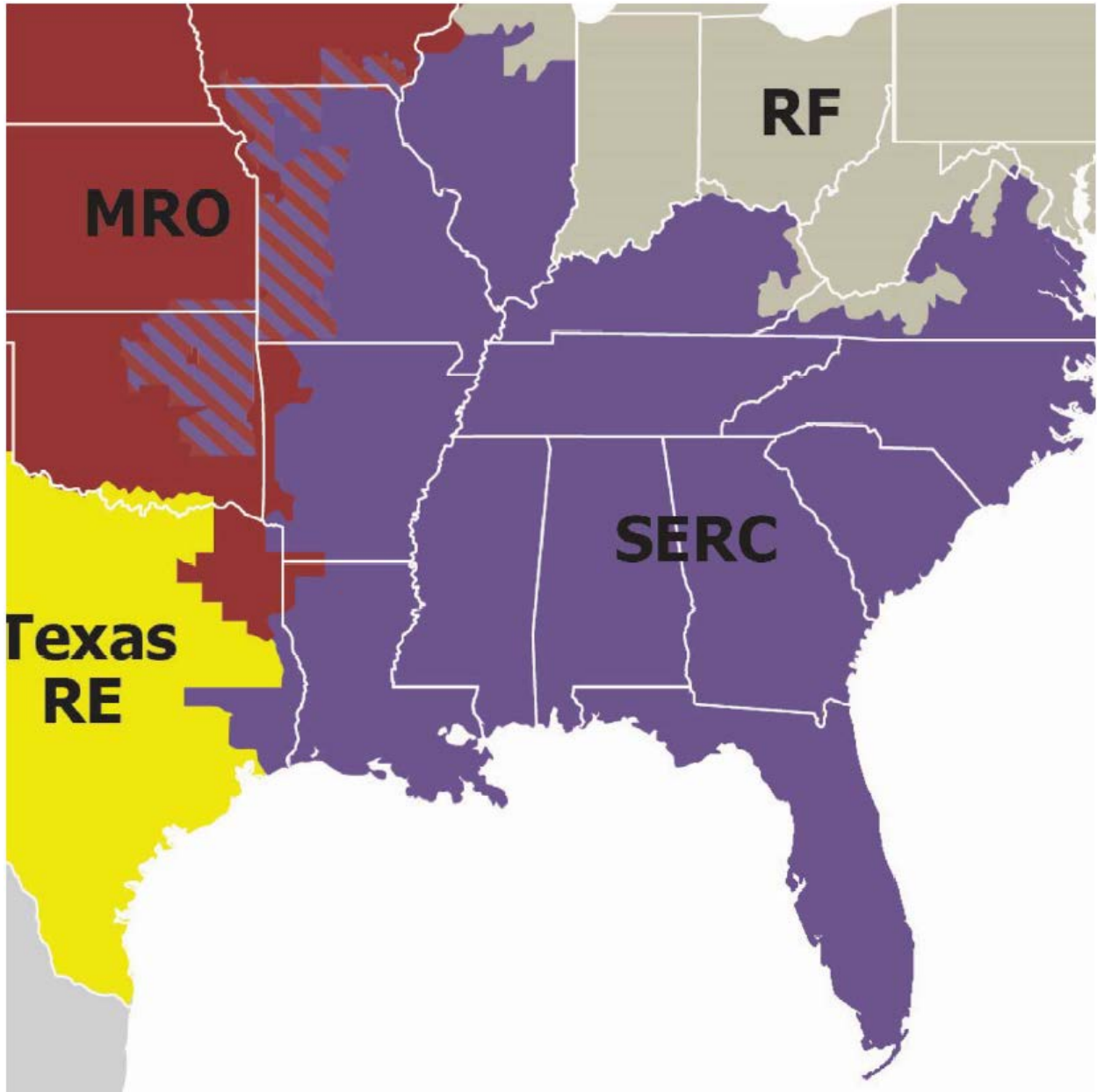


Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board, ~~a balanced stakeholder board,~~ or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. (~~Federal Power Act § 215(e)(4)(A), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(1), Order No. 672 at ¶ 727.~~)

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]

**SERC Compliance Monitoring and
Enforcement Program**

**Exhibit D
to the
Amended and Restated
Regional Entity Delegation Agreement
between**

**North American Electric Reliability Corporation
and
SERC Reliability Corporation**



Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

SERC Reliability Corporation (“SERC”) will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within SERC’s geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

SERC has adopted the Consolidated Hearing Process consistent with Rules of Procedure 403.15.B. to conduct hearings and issue decisions concerning disputed compliance matters in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program.

However, consistent with the Rules of Procedure and SERC’s bylaws, SERC may modify its selection of hearing process by notifying NERC six months prior to the decision becoming effective. To the extent required by the Rules of Procedure, SERC bylaws and other agreements, SERC, to the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either SERC’s board, a committee of the board, a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to SERC’s board, or an independent hearing panel.

SERC’s Hearing Body shall be established pursuant to Section 1.4.3 of Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. is the Board Compliance Committee, or a subset of the Board Compliance Committee. The Board Compliance Committee is comprised of SERC board members appointed by the Board of Directors. The Board Compliance Committee representation is as follows:

- ~~• The Investor Owned Utility Sector shall have three (3) representatives;~~
- ~~• The Federal/State Sector shall have two (2) representatives;~~
- ~~• The Cooperative Sector shall have two (2) representatives;~~
- ~~• The Municipal Sector shall have two (2) representatives;~~
- ~~• The Marketer Sector shall have one (1) representative;~~
- ~~• The Merchant Electricity Sector shall have one (1) representative;~~
- ~~• The ISO RTO Sector shall have one (1) representative~~

~~Consistent with the Hearing Procedures, a quorum for the purpose of constituting a Hearing Body shall be half of SERC’s Board Compliance Committee, or six members including alternates. In addition to the quorum requirement, the chair of the Board Compliance Committee shall declare the Hearing Body duly constituted only if no two sectors can control and no one sector can veto the actions of the Hearing Body (the “Sector Control Requirements”). To ensure that the Sector Control~~

~~Requirements are met in the formation of a Hearing Body, the Chair shall adhere to the following in declaring the Hearing Body duly constituted:~~

- ~~• If the Hearing Body is made up of six (6) members of the BCC, then each sector shall have no more than one (1) representative on the Hearing Body.~~
- ~~• If the Hearing Body is made up of seven (7) or eight (8) members of the BCC, then only one sector can have two (2) representatives on the Hearing Body, and each other sector can have only one (1) representative on the Hearing Body.~~
- ~~• If the Hearing Body is made up of nine (9) or ten (10) members of the BCC, then no sector can have more than two (2) representatives on the Hearing Body.~~
- ~~• If the Hearing Body is made up of eleven (11) or twelve (12) members of the BCC, then the Sector Control Requirements are met, as no two sectors would have enough votes to control, and no one sector would have the ability to veto.~~

~~Approval of all actions before a duly constituted Hearing Body shall require a simple majority of the votes cast, with each member of the Hearing Body having one vote. The decision of any duly constituted Hearing Body pursuant to these requirements shall be final and binding on the Corporation, without requiring either the full Compliance Committee or the Corporation to ratify the Hearing Body's actions.~~

To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, SERC shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: None.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

~~None. SERC does not use decision making bodies within its compliance program other than the Board Compliance Committee described in Section 2.0.~~

SERC Funding

Exhibit E to the Amended and Restated Regional Entity Delegation Agreement between

**North American Electric Reliability Corporation
and
SERC Reliability Corporation**



Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

SERC shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and SERC, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of SERC's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require SERC (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of SERC's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by SERC Board of Directors to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of SERC's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The SERC business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including SERC's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. SERC's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve SERC's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct SERC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit SERC's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget

submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of SERC's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. SERC shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying SERC's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of SERC's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified by SERC covering the NERC and SERC assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, SERC shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, SERC is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within SERC's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within SERC's region.

(c) Upon approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities of SERC's annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay SERC's annual assessment to SERC in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by SERC, ~~other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of SERC,~~ shall be applied as a general offset to SERC's budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity. ~~Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of SERC shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.~~

6. Budget and Funding for SERC's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), SERC performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"): None.

SERC shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions: Not applicable.

SERC shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that SERC submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. SERC's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of SERC's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. SERC agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of SERC's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of SERC's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities.

~~Costs associated with Cross-Regional Compliance Monitoring. The costs associated with any Cross-Regional Compliance Monitoring performed by SERC pursuant to Section 6(f) of this Agreement with respect to registered functions of another Regional Entity are to be funded by payments from the NERC or the Regional Entity contracting with SERC for such services, in accordance with the contract between SERC and NERC or the other Regional Entity. Where such a contract has been entered into SERC will include a description of the resources it has budgeted to perform such services, and its estimated costs (including an appropriate allocation of SERC's General and Administrative costs) to perform such services, in each budget year, in SERC's annual business plan and budget that is submitted to NERC and to the Commission for approval.~~

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if SERC determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, SERC shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in SERC's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct SERC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit SERC's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to SERC with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of SERC, including records used to prepare SERC's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by SERC pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. SERC shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

Attachment 11

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.
Clean

**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND TEXAS RELIABILITY ENTITY, INC.**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, 2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (“Texas RE”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and Texas RE may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional

entities (“Regional Entities”) such as Texas RE, provided that:

- (A) The Regional Entity is governed by —
 - (i) an independent board; or
 - (ii) a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, Texas RE is organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through Texas RE to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that Texas RE meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and Texas RE, having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor

agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and Texas RE agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to Texas RE to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, Texas RE hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) Texas RE is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. Texas RE is governed in accordance with its bylaws by a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any Texas RE decision

and no single industry sector can veto any Texas RE decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other Texas RE corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

(ii) Texas RE has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. Texas RE has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. Texas RE has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, non-independent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

(iii) Texas RE has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that Texas RE may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

(iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, Texas RE has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to Texas RE as reflected on NERC's Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to Texas RE that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, Texas RE shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) Texas RE shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of Texas RE under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of Texas RE, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and Texas RE shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon Texas RE.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of Texas RE in this Agreement, Texas RE's corporate governance documents, Texas RE's standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to Texas RE for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**. Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to Texas RE within, or additions to this delegation of authority to Texas RE beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

(b) Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit Texas RE from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

(c) For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both Texas RE and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

(d) As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, Texas RE shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, Texas RE shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process

for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords Texas RE reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances through Texas RE's process. Texas RE's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to Texas RE's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through Texas RE's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. Texas RE may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, Texas RE shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional

Variations) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and Texas RE agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. Texas RE may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, Texas RE agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) Texas RE shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) Texas RE shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by Texas RE, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and Texas RE shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by Texas RE of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, Texas RE shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), Texas RE may have stakeholders participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage Texas RE on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by Texas RE in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by Texas RE and other Regional Entities. Texas RE shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** Texas RE shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Texas RE shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** Texas RE shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and Texas RE shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, Texas RE shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** Texas RE may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** Texas RE shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of

NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** Texas RE shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of Texas RE's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and Texas RE that matters relating to NERC's oversight of Texas RE's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and Texas RE and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with Texas RE and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and Texas RE's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. Texas RE shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate Texas RE's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate Texas RE's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to Texas RE on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, Texas RE and the other Regional Entities, revised if

appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, Texas RE shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of Texas RE's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring Texas RE to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to Texas RE of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for Texas RE to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of Texas RE's performance and the need for an action plan. Texas RE may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and Texas RE shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of Texas RE's action plan. A final action plan submitted by Texas RE to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to Texas RE standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from Texas RE and other Regional Entities, for Texas RE personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to Texas RE concerning the manner in which Texas RE shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered "directives." NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with Texas RE and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and Texas RE and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the

contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, Texas RE, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by Texas RE, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without Texas RE's agreement, *provided*, that Texas RE shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and Texas RE and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which Texas RE, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. Texas RE, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with Texas RE, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of Texas RE on a reasonable periodicity to determine Texas RE's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. Texas RE and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) Texas RE shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. Texas RE's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, Texas RE to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. Texas RE's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) Texas RE and NERC agree that the portion of Texas RE's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by Texas RE and approved by NERC and the Commission. If Texas RE proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, Texas RE shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and Texas RE to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide Texas RE with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) Texas RE shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of Texas RE, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund Texas RE's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with Texas RE's Commission-approved business plan and budget, in the amount of Texas RE's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E**

sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting Texas RE's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to Texas RE, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon Texas RE that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without Texas RE's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and Texas RE fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. Texas RE shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) Texas RE shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in a form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) Texas RE shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which Texas RE shall offset penalty monies it receives against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement. *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, Texas RE may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this

Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. Texas RE may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit Texas RE from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided Texas RE retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

- (a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2021 (the "Effective Date").
- (b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date ("Term"), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that Texas RE continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If Texas RE meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional

five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that Texas RE continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of Texas RE's Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by Texas RE and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. Texas RE and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this

Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and Texas RE shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of Texas RE's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that Texas RE or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case Texas RE or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of Texas RE under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of Texas RE, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent Texas RE does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of Texas RE under this Agreement, Texas RE shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by Texas RE to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by Texas RE and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and Texas RE (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to Texas RE's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. Texas RE shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts

jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to Texas RE:

Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.
805 Las Cimas Parkway
Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78746
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@texasre.org

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. **Headings**. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. **Savings Clause**. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that Texas RE may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. **Entire Agreement**. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. **Execution of Counterparts**. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

TEXAS RELIABILITY ENTITY, INC.

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit A — Regional Boundaries

Texas RE is a non-profit entity committed to safeguarding and improving reliability of the Bulk Power System in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region of the State of Texas.

The geographic boundaries of Texas RE are determined by registered entities' interconnection with the ERCOT system as documented in the NERC Compliance Registry.

Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]

Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Texas RE will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within **Texas RE's** geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Texas RE, to the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either **Texas RE's** board, a committee of the board, a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to **Texas RE's** board or an independent hearing panel. **Texas RE's** hearing body is a committee of the board comprised of a portion of the Texas RE Directors, with a majority of independent directors.

To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, **Texas RE** shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, as set forth in the Texas RE Hearing Body Charter:

- (a) The Hearing Body will attend the evidentiary hearing so that the members can hear and weigh the evidence presented and assess the credibility of the witnesses.
- (b) Following post-hearing briefing, the Hearing Body will convene to deliberate and make an initial determination of the disputed issues based on the evidence admitted during the proceedings. The Hearing Body will issue an Initial Opinion reflecting the decisions of the Hearing Body in accordance with the Hearing Procedures.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

None

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

Texas RE shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and Texas RE, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of Texas RE's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require Texas RE (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of Texas RE's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by Texas RE Board of Directors to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of Texas RE's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The Texas RE business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including Texas RE's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. Texas RE's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve Texas RE's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct Texas RE to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate

prior to approval. NERC shall submit Texas RE's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of Texas RE's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. Texas RE shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying Texas RE's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of Texas RE's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used. NERC and Texas RE agree that for purposes of Sections 3 and 4 of this **Exhibit E**, Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT ISO), as the sole independent system operator and Balancing Authority, is the only load-serving entity or designee in Texas RE's region and shall be invoiced for the entire NERC and Texas RE assessments approved for collection.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified in Section 3 of this **Exhibit E** to cover the NERC and Texas RE assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, Texas RE shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Texas RE is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within Texas RE's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within Texas RE's region.

(c) Upon approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities of Texas RE's annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay Texas RE's annual assessment to Regional Entity in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by Texas RE, other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of Texas RE, shall be applied as a general offset to Texas RE's budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity. Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of Texas RE shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.

6. Budget and Funding for Texas RE's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), Texas RE performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"):

Texas RE performs non-statutory activities as the ERCOT region Reliability Monitor on behalf of the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUC"). As the Reliability Monitor, Texas RE audits and investigates market participants' compliance with ERCOT Protocols and Operating Guides (ERCOT regional rules), reports possible non-compliance with reliability-related regional rules to the PUC, and provides testimony and support to the PUC in enforcement cases prosecuted by the PUC. These non-statutory activities are funded through the ERCOT ISO system administration fee and payment to Texas RE is authorized by the PUC. Texas RE shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions:

- A. Texas RE segregates the funding for its statutory activities and non-statutory activities by recording transactions in separate and distinct general ledger accounts, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
- B. Texas RE has adopted a detailed system to record expenses to the proper fund, department, and expense type. Operating fund 000 has been set up for statutory activities, and operating fund 500 has been set up for non-statutory activities. Texas RE uses department codes to record all costs and expenses incurred by Texas RE and appropriately tracks its costs for statutory activities separately from its costs for non-statutory activities.
- C. Texas RE utilizes and maintains a time recording and expense management system under which employee time and expenses incurred in the conduct of non-

statutory activities will be tracked to ensure that they are not funded by NERC remittances intended for the funding of statutory activities.

- D. Where employee time or an expense affects multiple activities, Texas RE will use an accurate basis of allocation of the time or expense between the activities being performed based on specific metrics, such as time tracking, data observations or total cost input. Total cost input relates the portion of the expense to the total expense to establish an appropriate method to allocate.

Texas RE shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that Texas RE submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. Texas RE's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of Texas RE's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. Texas RE agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of Texas RE's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of Texas RE's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities.

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if Texas RE determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, Texas RE shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in Texas RE's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct Texas RE to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit Texas RE's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to Texas RE with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of Texas RE, including records used to prepare Texas RE's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by Texas RE pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. Texas RE shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

Attachment 12

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.
Redline

EXECUTION VERSION

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION AND TEXAS RELIABILITY ENTITY, INC.

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, ~~2016~~2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (“Texas RE”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries ~~identified~~described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and Texas RE may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the

delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as Texas RE, provided that:

(A) The Regional Entity is governed by —

~~(i)~~ an independent board;

~~(ii)(i) a balanced stakeholder board;~~ or

~~(iii)(ii)~~ a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder ~~board~~ members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, Texas RE is organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through Texas RE to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that Texas RE meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and Texas RE, having operated under a predecessor agreement to

this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and Texas RE agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to Texas RE to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, Texas RE hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) Texas RE is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. Texas RE is governed in accordance with its bylaws by

a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any Texas RE decision and no single industry sector can veto any Texas RE decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other Texas RE corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

~~(i)~~(ii) Texas RE has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. Texas RE has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. Texas RE has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, non-independent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

~~(ii)~~(iii) _____ Texas RE has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that Texas RE may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

~~(iii)~~(iv) _____ As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, Texas RE has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to the within Texas RE as reflected on NERC's Compliance Registry geographic boundaries as shown in Exhibit A.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to Texas RE that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement

and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, Texas RE shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) Texas RE shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of Texas RE under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of Texas RE, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and Texas RE shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon Texas RE.

4. **Delegation of Authority.**

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of Texas RE in this Agreement, Texas RE's corporate governance documents, Texas RE's standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to Texas RE for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**, ~~provided, that Texas RE shall not monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards for Texas RE or an affiliated entity with respect to reliability functions for which Texas RE or an affiliate is a Registered Entity.~~ Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to Texas RE within, or additions to this delegation of authority to Texas RE beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.

~~(b) — In circumstances where Texas RE or an affiliated entity is a Registered Entity, Texas RE shall enter into an agreement with another Regional Entity or NERC for the other Regional Entity or NERC to monitor and enforce Texas RE's or affiliate's compliance with Reliability Standards. Such agreements are subject to NERC and Commission approval.~~

~~(e)(b)~~ Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit Texas RE from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

~~(d)(c)~~ For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both Texas RE and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

~~(e)(d)~~ As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, Texas RE shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's

Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, Texas RE shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords Texas RE reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances through Texas RE's process. Texas RE's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to Texas RE's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through Texas RE's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. Texas RE may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not

find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, Texas RE shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and Texas RE agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. Texas RE may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, Texas RE agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) Texas RE shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) Texas RE shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by Texas RE, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and Texas

RE shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by Texas RE of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, Texas RE shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), A Regional Entity Texas RE may have stakeholders ~~lead or~~ participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage Texas RE on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by Texas RE in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and

users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by Texas RE and other Regional Entities. Texas RE shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** Texas RE shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Texas RE shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** Texas RE shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and Texas RE shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, Texas RE shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** Texas RE may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions

and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** Texas RE shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** Texas RE shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of Texas RE's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and Texas RE that matters relating to NERC's oversight of Texas RE's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and Texas RE and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with Texas RE and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and Texas RE's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. Texas RE shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate Texas RE's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate Texas RE's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to Texas RE on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, Texas RE and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, Texas RE shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of Texas RE's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring Texas RE to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to Texas RE of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for Texas RE to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of Texas RE's performance and the need for an action plan. Texas RE may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and Texas RE shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of Texas RE's action plan. A final action plan submitted by Texas RE to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to Texas RE standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from Texas RE and other Regional Entities, for Texas RE personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to Texas RE concerning the manner in which Texas RE shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered "directives." NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a

collaborative process with Texas RE and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and Texas RE and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, Texas RE, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by Texas RE, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without Texas RE's agreement, *provided*, that Texas RE shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and Texas RE and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which Texas RE, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall

be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. Texas RE, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with Texas RE, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of Texas RE on a reasonable periodicity to determine Texas RE's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d) and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. Texas RE and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) Texas RE shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. Texas RE's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, Texas RE to carry out its Delegated Authority

under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. Texas RE's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) Texas RE and NERC agree that the portion of Texas RE's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by Texas RE and approved by NERC and the Commission. If Texas RE proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, Texas RE shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and Texas RE to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equity requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide Texas RE with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) Texas RE shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of Texas RE, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more

fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund Texas RE's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with Texas RE's Commission-approved business plan and budget, in the amount of Texas RE's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting Texas RE's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to Texas RE, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon Texas RE that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without Texas RE's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and Texas RE fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. Texas RE shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) Texas RE shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in a form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) Texas RE shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which Texas RE shall offset penalty monies it receives ~~(other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of Texas RE)~~ against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement, ~~and the mechanism by which Texas RE shall transmit to NERC any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or~~

~~affiliated entity of Texas RE.~~ *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, Texas RE may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. Texas RE may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit Texas RE from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided Texas RE retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, ~~2016~~2021 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date (“Term”), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that Texas RE continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If Texas RE meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that Texas RE continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement ~~as of the end of a term~~ by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of Texas RE’s Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the

Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by Texas RE and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. Texas RE and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and Texas RE shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of Texas RE's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that Texas RE or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case Texas RE or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of Texas RE under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of Texas RE, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent Texas RE does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of Texas RE under this Agreement, Texas RE shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by Texas RE to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by Texas RE and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and Texas RE (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to Texas RE's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. Texas RE shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this

Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to Texas RE:

Texas Reliability Entity, Inc.
805 Las Cimas Parkway
Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78746
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@texasre.org

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from

exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that Texas RE may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. Execution of Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

TEXAS RELIABILITY ENTITY, INC.

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

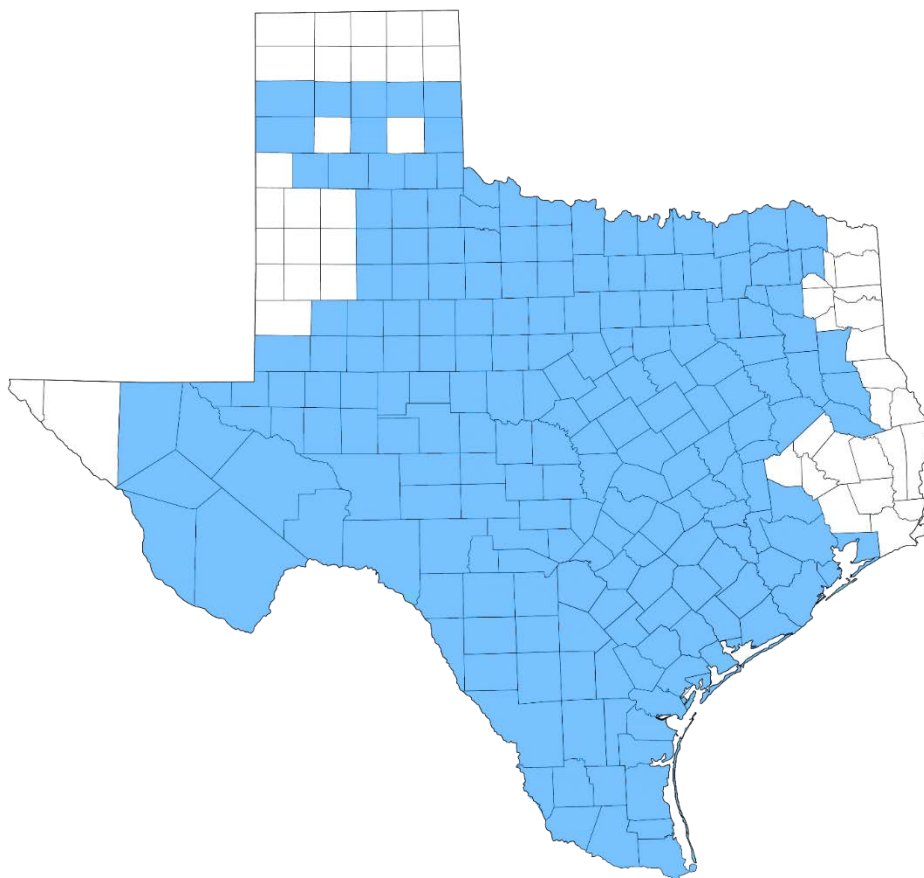
Date: _____

Exhibit A — Regional Boundaries

Texas RE is a non-profit entity committed to safeguarding and improving reliability of the Bulk Power System in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region of the State of Texas.

The geographic boundaries of Texas RE are determined by registered entities' interconnection with the ERCOT system as documented in the NERC Compliance Registry.

~~The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region is the geographic area and associated transmission and distribution facilities that are not synchronously interconnected with electric utilities operating outside the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). The ERCOT region does not interconnect synchronously across state lines to import or export power with neighboring reliability regions. The ERCOT geographic region includes 200,000-square miles, 90% of Texas load, and 75% of Texas land area but does not include the Panhandle (with the exception of certain Competitive Energy Renewable Zone transmission lines), El Paso area, and two areas of East Texas. The ERCOT region includes the following Texas cities and towns: Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Paris, Tyler, Nacogdoches, Lufkin, Bryan, College Station, Corpus Christi, Harlingen, Brownsville, Laredo, Brownwood, San Angelo, Abilene, Midland, Odessa, Fort Stockton, Monahans, Snyder, Vernon, Wichita Falls, Denton, Garland, Greenville, Waco, Temple, Killeen, Weatherford, and Graham, as indicated on the map below.~~



~~*Map shows approximate geographic areas for general information only and does not indicate areas where service providers overlap.~~

Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board, ~~a balanced stakeholder board,~~ or a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members. (~~Federal Power Act § 215(e)(4)(A), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(1), Order No. 672 at ¶ 727.~~)

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]

Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Texas RE will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within **Texas RE's** geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Texas RE, to the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either **Texas RE's** board, a committee of the board, a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to **Texas RE's** board or an independent hearing panel. **Texas RE's** hearing body is a committee of the board comprised of a portion of the Texas RE Directors, with a majority of independent directors.

To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, **Texas RE** shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, as set forth in the Texas RE Hearing Body Charter:

- (a) The Hearing Body will attend the evidentiary hearing so that the members can hear and weigh the evidence presented and assess the credibility of the witnesses.
- (b) Following post-hearing briefing, the Hearing Body will convene to deliberate and make an initial determination of the disputed issues based on the evidence admitted during the proceedings. The Hearing Body will issue an Initial Opinion reflecting the decisions of the Hearing Body in accordance with the Hearing Procedures.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

None

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

Texas RE shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and Texas RE, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of Texas RE's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require Texas RE (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of Texas RE's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by Texas RE Board of Directors to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of Texas RE's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The Texas RE business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including Texas RE's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. Texas RE's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve Texas RE's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct Texas RE to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate

prior to approval. NERC shall submit Texas RE's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of Texas RE's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. Texas RE shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying Texas RE's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of Texas RE's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used. NERC and Texas RE agree that for purposes of Sections 3 and 4 of this **Exhibit E**, Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT ISO), as the sole independent system operator and Balancing Authority, is the only load-serving entity or designee in Texas RE's region and shall be invoiced for the entire NERC and Texas RE assessments approved for collection.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC shall submit invoices to the load-serving entities or designees identified ~~by Texas RE in Section 3 of this Exhibit E to covering~~ the NERC and Texas RE assessments approved for collection.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, Texas RE shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Texas RE is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within Texas RE's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within Texas RE's region.

(c) Upon approval by Applicable Governmental Authorities of Texas RE's annual assessment to fund the costs of its delegated functions and related activities, NERC shall pay Texas RE's annual assessment to Regional Entity in four equal quarterly payments on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of the budget year.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by Texas RE, other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of Texas RE, shall be applied as a general offset to Texas RE's budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for the subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity. Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of Texas RE shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.

6. Budget and Funding for Texas RE's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), Texas RE performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"):

Texas RE performs non-statutory activities as the ERCOT region Reliability Monitor on behalf of the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT"). As the Reliability Monitor, Texas RE audits and investigates market participants' compliance with ERCOT Protocols and Operating Guides (ERCOT regional rules), reports possible non-compliance with reliability-related regional rules to the PUCT, and provides testimony and support to the PUCT in enforcement cases prosecuted by the PUCT. These non-statutory activities are funded through the ERCOT ISO system administration fee and payment to Texas RE is authorized by the PUCT. Texas RE shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions:

- A. Texas RE segregates the funding for its statutory activities and non-statutory activities by recording ~~the funding~~ transactions in separate and distinct general ledger accounts, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
- ~~B.A. Texas RE utilizes and must maintain a time recording and expense management system under which employee time and expenses incurred in the conduct of non-statutory activities will be tracked to ensure that they are not funded by NERC remittances intended for the funding of statutory activities.~~
- C. Texas RE has adopted a detailed system to record expenses to the proper fund, department, and expense type. of Account Codes, Department Codes and Activity Codes which are used in recording expenses Operating fund 000 has been set up for statutory activities, and operating fund 500 has been set up for non-statutory activities. The Texas RE uses Activity Codes are specific to statutory

~~activities and non-statutory activities. The Texas RE Activity Codes are modeled on the NERC Functional Categories. Texas RE shall use Department Codes department codes that are unique to Texas RE to record all costs and expenses incurred by Texas RE for statutory activities and non-statutory activities.~~

~~D.B.~~ Texas RE shall use Activity Codes to and appropriately tracks its costs for statutory activities separately from its costs for non-statutory activities.

C. Texas RE utilizes and ~~must~~ maintains a time recording and expense management system under which employee time and expenses incurred in the conduct of non-statutory activities will be tracked to ensure that they are not funded by NERC remittances intended for the funding of statutory activities.

~~E.D.~~ Where employee time or an expense affects multiple activities, Texas RE will use an accurate basis of allocation of the time or expense between the activities being performed based on specific metrics, such as time tracking, data observations or total cost input. Total cost input relates the portion of the expense to the total expense to establish an appropriate method to allocate.

Texas RE shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that Texas RE submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. Texas RE's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of Texas RE's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. Texas RE agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of Texas RE's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of Texas RE's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities.

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if Texas RE determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, Texas RE shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in Texas RE's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct Texas RE to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit Texas RE's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to Texas RE with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of Texas RE, including records used to prepare Texas RE's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial

statements submitted by Texas RE pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. Texas RE shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

Attachment 13

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with Western Electricity Coordinating Council Clean

**AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION
AND WESTERN ELECTRICITY COORDINATING COUNCIL**

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, 2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (“WECC”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and WECC may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the

delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as WECC, provided that:

- (A) The Regional Entity is governed by —
 - (i) an independent board; or
 - (ii) a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, WECC is organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through WECC to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that WECC meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and WECC, having operated under a predecessor agreement to this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate

the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and WECC agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to WECC to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, WECC hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) WECC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. WECC is governed in accordance with its bylaws by an independent Board. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any WECC

decision and no single industry sector can veto any WECC decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other WECC corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

(ii) WECC has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. WECC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. WECC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, nonindependent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

(iii) WECC has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that WECC may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

(iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, WECC has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to WECC as reflected on NERC's Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to WECC that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the

Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, WECC shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) WECC shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of WECC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of WECC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and WECC shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon WECC.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of WECC in this Agreement, WECC's corporate governance documents, WECC's standards development

process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to WECC for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**.

(b) Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit WECC from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

(c) For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both WECC and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

(d) As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, WECC shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

- (a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, WECC shall be entitled to:
- (i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords WECC reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and
 - (ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances through WECC's process. WECC's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to WECC's process shall be submitted to the NERC

Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through WECC's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. WECC may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, WECC shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and WECC agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties

pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. WECC may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, WECC agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) WECC shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) WECC shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by WECC, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and WECC shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by WECC of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, WECC shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), WECC may have stakeholders participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and

independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage WECC on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by WECC in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based on data and information provided by WECC and other Regional Entities. WECC shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** WECC shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. WECC shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** WECC shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and WECC shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, WECC shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** WECC may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** WECC shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** WECC shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of WECC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and WECC that matters relating to NERC's oversight of WECC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and WECC and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with WECC and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and WECC's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. WECC shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate WECC's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate WECC's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to WECC on performance improvements. The performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, WECC and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, WECC shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of WECC's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring WECC to adopt and

implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to WECC of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for WECC to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of WECC's performance and the need for an action plan. WECC may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and WECC shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of WECC's action plan. A final action plan submitted by WECC to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to WECC standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from WECC and other Regional Entities, for WECC personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to WECC concerning the manner in which WECC shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered "directives." NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with WECC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and WECC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, WECC, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by WECC, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without WECC's agreement, *provided*, that WECC shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good

cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and WECC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which WECC, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. WECC, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with WECC, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of WECC on a reasonable periodicity to determine WECC's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees

pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d), and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. WECC and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) WECC shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. WECC's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, WECC to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. WECC's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) WECC and NERC agree that the portion of WECC's approved budget for the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by WECC and approved by NERC and the Commission. If WECC proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, WECC shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and WECC to the Commission pursuant to the ERO

Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equitability requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide WECC with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) WECC shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of WECC, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund WECC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with WECC's Commission- approved business plan and budget, in the amount of WECC's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting WECC's approved assessments from end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to WECC, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon WECC that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without WECC's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and WECC fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. WECC shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts

except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) WECC shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) WECC shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which WECC shall offset penalty monies it receives against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement. *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, WECC may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. WECC may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit WECC from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided WECC retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall

commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2021 (the “Effective Date”).

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date (“Term”), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that WECC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If WECC meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that WECC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of WECC’s Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by WECC and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. WECC and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and WECC shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of WECC's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that WECC or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case WECC or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create

any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement, provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this

Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of WECC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of WECC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent WECC does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of WECC under this Agreement, WECC shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by WECC to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by WECC and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and WECC (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this

Agreement and/or disputes relating to WECC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. WECC shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided,

that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement, attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to WECC:

Western Electricity Coordinating Council
155 North 400 West,
Suite 200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103
Attn: General Counsel
Email: sgoodwill@wecc.biz

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. Savings Clause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that WECC may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. **Execution of Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

WESTERN ELECTRICITY
COORDINATING COUNCIL

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit A — Regional Boundaries

WECC's physical boundaries coincide with the boundaries of the Western Interconnection. The Western Interconnection consists of the synchronously operated electric transmission grid in the western part of North America, which includes parts of Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming, and Mexico and all of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and the Canadian Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. The WECC region encompasses approximately 1.8 million square miles.

WECC's northern border runs along the northern border of British Columbia and Alberta. The western border extends along the western coast of North America from British Columbia into northern Baja California, Mexico. The southern border traverses northern Baja and extends along the southern United States border to Texas. The eastern border bisects North America from Alberta, Canada through the states of Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Texas and New Mexico to the southern United States border.

Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board or a hybrid board consisting of a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]

Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

WECC will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within **WECC's** geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

WECC, to the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either **WECC's** board, a committee of the board, a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to **WECC's** board or an independent hearing panel. .

To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, **WECC** shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: None.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

None.

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

WECC shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
This category includes activities under the WECC Reliability Management System
- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)
This category includes the WECC Transmission Expansion Planning Program, Loads and Resources Activities, and all necessary supporting activities
- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education
This category includes WECC's Training Programs
- Situation Awareness
- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and WECC, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of WECC's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require WECC (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of WECC's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by the WECC Board of Directors to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of WECC's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The WECC business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including WECC's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. WECC's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable

reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve WECC's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct WECC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit WECC's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of WECC's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. WECC shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying WECC's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of WECC's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

Entities on the list of LSEs or Balancing Authorities will be responsible for collection and/or payment of charges through the mechanism described in either Option 1 or 2 below. Each Balancing Authority will inform WECC by June 1st of each year of its choice of Option 1 or 2, and will give WECC at least 90 days' notice of its intention to change from one option to the other.

a. **OPTION 1** -- The Balancing Authority will provide WECC a list of all LSEs located within its area, including each LSE's name, contact information, and Net Energy for Load. This information will be updated annually and provided to WECC no later than June 1st of each year. WECC will use this list to bill each LSE for all costs on an annual basis.

b. **OPTION 2** -- WECC will bill the Balancing Authority for all costs on an annual basis. The Balancing Authority will be responsible for equitably allocating WECC costs among the LSEs in its area (if applicable) on the basis of Net Energy for Load, collecting the funds, and ensuring that WECC receives full payment on an annual basis.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC and WECC agree that WECC shall act as the billing and collection agent on behalf of NERC to bill and collect the NERC, WECC, and WIRAB assessments from

load-serving entities and designees (or such other entities as agreed by NERC and WECC). WECC agrees that it shall (i) issue all invoices to each load-serving entity or Balancing Authority (depending on the Balancing Authority's choice of Option 1 or 2 above) in a prompt and timely manner after receipt from NERC of the information needed to issue the invoices, but no later than November 15th of each year; (ii) exercise commercially reasonable efforts to collect invoices that are not paid as of the due date(s); and (iii) transfer all funds collected to NERC in a timely manner, as follows: Once per week until all billings are collected, WECC will electronically transfer to NERC, in immediately available funds, all payments received by WECC from load-serving entities or other entities for payment of the NERC, WECC, and WIRAB assessments billed on the annual invoices. In the event that (1) a payment received is less than the total amount billed for the NERC, WECC, and WIRAB assessments; and (2) WECC does not know and, after due inquiry with the entity submitting the underpayment and consultation with NERC, is unable to determine which invoiced item accounts for the shortfall, WECC shall be permitted to prorate the shortfall among all assessments received from that entity. On the same day that WECC makes each electronic transfer of funds to NERC, WECC shall send an e-mail to the Chief Financial Officer or Controller of NERC detailing the collections being transmitted, including a listing of the load-serving entities or other entities from which payments were collected and the amount collected from each entity and the breakdown of the total payments collected among NERC statutory funding, WECC statutory funding, and WIRAB statutory funding.

WECC agrees that it shall not in any way use its position as billing and collection agent for NERC to attempt to influence NERC's policies or decisions on matters relating to adoption of Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances), administration of the compliance monitoring and enforcement program and other compliance and enforcement matters, determination and imposition of penalties and sanctions, budgeting matters including review and approval of WECC's budgets and business plans, or any other NERC decisions, including by issuing invoices, engaging in collection activities or transferring funds collected to NERC in an untimely manner or other than in accordance with this Agreement. To the extent WECC uses another entity as collection agent, it will incorporate these safeguards in the arrangements with the collection agent.

Within three (3) business days following receipt of an electronic transfer of collected assessments from WECC in accordance with Section 4(a) of this **Exhibit E**, NERC will electronically transfer (i) to WECC, in immediately available funds, the portion of the payment received from WECC constituting WECC statutory funding, and (ii) to WIRAB, in immediately available funds, the portion of the payment received from WECC constituting WIRAB statutory funding.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts constituting NERC, WECC, and WIRAB statutory funding and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, WECC shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, WECC is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain

sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts constituting NERC, WECC, and WIRAB statutory funding. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within WECC's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within WECC's region.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by WECC, other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of WECC, shall be applied as a general offset to WECC's budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for a subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity. Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of WECC shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.

6. Budget and Funding for WECC's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), WECC performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"): Western Renewable Generation Information System ("WREGIS").

WECC shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions: WECC utilizes a fund accounting system with capabilities to segregate receipts and expenses based on function or activity. WECC has segregated non-statutory activities by assigning a separate fund code to those receipts and expenses. All expenditures or receipts that are entered into WECC's accounting system must include a fund code identifying whether the transaction is related to statutory or non-statutory activities.

General and administrative costs are allocated to non-statutory activities based on an FTE ratio that is consistent with NERC's accounting methodology for allocation of overhead to statutory activities. For these reasons, time records are not necessary for WECC to properly allocate costs between statutory and non-statutory activities.

WECC shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that WECC submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. WECC's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of WECC's non-statutory activities

and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. WECC agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of WECC's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of WECC's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities.

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if WECC determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, WECC shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in WECC's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct WECC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit WECC's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to WECC with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of WECC, including records used to prepare WECC's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by WECC pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. WECC shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.

Attachment 14

Revised Regional Delegation Agreement with Western Electricity Coordinating Council Redline

EXECUTION VERSION

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION AND WESTERN ELECTRICITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

AMENDED AND RESTATED DELEGATION AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)

Effective as of January 1, ~~2016~~2021, between the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), an organization certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 215(c) of the Federal Power Act to establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (“WECC”), an organization established to develop and enforce Reliability Standards within the geographic boundaries ~~identified~~described in **Exhibit A** to this Agreement, and for other purposes. NERC and WECC may be individually referred to herein as “Party” or collectively as “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o) (hereafter “the Act”), which, among other things, provides for the establishment of an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) to develop and enforce Reliability Standards applicable to all owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted regulations for the implementation of the Act, which are set forth at Chapter I, Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 39 (the “ERO Regulations”);

WHEREAS, the Commission has certified NERC as the ERO that will, in accordance with the Act, establish and enforce Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, subject to certain delegation provisions described below;

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes the international interdependency of electric reliability within North America and envisions the ERO and such applicable Regional Entities as international organizations;

WHEREAS, the Act and Section 39.8 of the ERO Regulations provide for the

delegation by the ERO of authority to propose and enforce Reliability Standards to regional entities (“Regional Entities”) such as WECC, provided that:

(A) The Regional Entity is governed by —

~~(i)~~ an independent board;

~~(ii)(i) a balanced stakeholder board;~~ or

~~(iii)(ii)~~ a hybrid board consisting of a combination of independent and balanced stakeholder board members.

(B) The Regional Entity otherwise satisfies the provisions of Section 215(c)(1) and (2) of the Act; and

(C) The agreement promotes effective and efficient administration of Bulk-Power System reliability;

WHEREAS, certain Regional Entities are organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and are therefore entitled to the presumption set forth in the Act that: “[t]he ERO and the Commission shall rebuttably presume that a proposal for delegation to a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis promotes effective and efficient administration of bulk power system reliability and should be approved”;

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that the ERO shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Reliability Standard or modification to a Reliability Standard to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest;

WHEREAS, WECC is organized on an Interconnection-wide basis and therefore is entitled to the rebuttable presumptions accorded such an entity;

WHEREAS, NERC will work through WECC to carry out certain of its activities in furtherance of its responsibilities as the ERO under the Act;

WHEREAS, NERC has concluded that WECC meets all requirements of the Act, the ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure as approved by the Commission (“NERC Rules of Procedure”) necessary to qualify for delegation; and

WHEREAS, NERC and WECC, having operated under a predecessor agreement to

this Agreement, have negotiated this amended and restated Agreement so as to incorporate the benefits of their mutual experience and lessons learned while operating under the predecessor agreement and thereby provide for the more efficient and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in a transparent manner that is pursuant to Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, NERC and WECC agree as follows:

1. Definitions. The capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall be defined as set forth in the Act, the ERO Regulations, the NERC Rules of Procedure, or the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in Reliability Standards, or, if not so defined, shall be defined as set forth in this Section 1 or elsewhere in the text of this Agreement:

(a) Breach means (i) the failure of a Party to perform or observe any material term, condition or covenant of the Agreement or (ii) a representation in Section 2 of the Agreement shall have become materially untrue.

(b) Cross-Border Regional Entity means a Regional Entity that encompasses a part of the United States and a part of Canada or Mexico.

(c) Delegated Authority means the authority delegated by NERC to WECC to propose and enforce Reliability Standards, consistent with Section 4(d) and the boundaries identified in **Exhibit A** pursuant to the Act and to undertake related activities set forth in this Agreement in furtherance of these delegated functions in accordance with the Act, the ERO Regulations and this Agreement.

2. Representations.

(a) For purposes of its Delegated Authority, WECC hereby represents and warrants to NERC that:

(i) WECC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. WECC is governed in accordance with its bylaws by an

independent Board. Pursuant to these bylaws, no two industry sectors can control any WECC decision and no single industry sector can veto any WECC decision. The relevant criteria for the establishment of such bylaws are attached hereto in **Exhibit B**. No other WECC corporate governance documents shall be inconsistent with the criteria in **Exhibit B**.

~~(i)~~(ii) WECC has and shall retain during the term of this Agreement a governing board with a sufficient number of independent members to perform certain oversight obligations, including those relating to: (A) nomination of independent governing board members, (B) compensation for the Regional Entity chief executive officer, and, (C) compliance monitoring and enforcement program implementation. WECC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, fair and reasonable compensation for independent governing board members. WECC has and shall retain, during the term of this agreement, appropriate conflict of interest and recusal policies with respect to their employees, nonindependent and independent governing board members and will avoid any conflicts of interest, including but not limited to, significant commercial relationships with registered entities. Each Regional Entity's implementation of these requirements has been documented and accepted by NERC based on principles developed in consultation with the Regional Entities and such implementation will be reviewed in connection with renewal of this Agreement.

~~(ii)~~(iii) WECC has developed a standards development procedure, which provides the process that WECC may use to develop Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances that are proposed to NERC for adoption.

~~(iii)~~(iv) As set forth in **Exhibit D** hereto, WECC has adopted the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure, which provides for the enforcement of Reliability Standards for the registered entities assigned to within WECC as reflected on NERC's geographic boundaries as shown in **Exhibit A** Compliance Registry.

(b) NERC hereby represents and warrants to WECC that:

(i) NERC is and shall remain during the term of this Agreement validly existing and in good standing pursuant to all applicable laws relevant to this Agreement and that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents it from executing this Agreement and fulfilling its obligations hereunder; and

(ii) NERC has been certified as the ERO by the Commission pursuant to the Act.

(iii) NERC shall comply with its Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, as from time to time adopted, approved or amended.

3. General Covenants.

(a) During the term of this Agreement, WECC shall maintain and preserve its qualifications for delegation pursuant to the Act and shall not amend its Regional Entity Rules without NERC approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which shall, in the case of a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, be governed by the presumptions provided for in Section 215(d)(2) and (e)(4)(C) of the Act, and be subject to any required Commission approval.

(b) WECC shall provide NERC with a copy of its Regional Entity Rules upon request by NERC. NERC shall maintain on its public website the currently effective versions of all Regional Entity bylaws and Regional Entity standard development procedures.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, NERC shall maintain its qualification and status as the ERO pursuant to the Act and, subject to the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations or programs of WECC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of WECC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

(d) During the term of this Agreement, NERC and WECC shall adhere to and require that all participants in their respective activities under this Agreement follow and comply with the NERC Antitrust Compliance Guidelines.

(e) For purposes of this Agreement, NERC shall collaborate with the Regional Entities in the development of guidance, policies and procedures, and oversight parameters as contemplated by this Agreement. In the event that collaboration is not successful on any such matter, the NERC President may issue a directive with respect to such matter pursuant to Section 8 herein, and such directive shall be binding upon WECC.

4. Delegation of Authority.

(a) Based upon the representations, warranties and covenants of WECC in this

Agreement, WECC's corporate governance documents, WECC's standards development process, and the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**, NERC hereby delegates authority, pursuant to Section 215(e)(4) of the Act, to WECC for the purpose of proposing Reliability Standards to NERC, as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement, and enforcing Reliability Standards, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, within the geographic boundaries and such other scope set forth in **Exhibit A**, ~~provided, that WECC shall not monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards for WECC or an affiliated entity with respect to reliability functions for which WECC or an affiliate is a Registered Entity. For avoidance of doubt, Peak Reliability (or its successor) is not an affiliated entity of WECC for purposes of this Section 4(a). Any exclusions from this delegation of authority to WECC within, or additions to this delegation of authority to WECC beyond, the geographic boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** are stated in **Exhibit A**.~~

~~(b) — In circumstances where WECC or an affiliated entity is a Registered Entity, WECC shall enter into an agreement with another Regional Entity or NERC for the other Regional Entity or NERC to monitor and enforce WECC's or affiliate's compliance with Reliability Standards. Such agreements are subject to NERC and Commission approval.~~

~~(e)(b)~~ Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit WECC from entering into an arrangement between one or more other Regional Entities to perform compliance monitoring and enforcement activities outside of its region, on behalf of NERC and/or other Regional Entities, for Registered Entities that have registered functions monitored by more than one Regional Entity, subject to approval by NERC.

~~(d)(c)~~ For Cross-Border Regional Entities, the authority delegated by this Agreement shall extend only to the portion of the region identified in **Exhibit A** that is within the United States. Any delegation of authority by Applicable Governmental Authorities in Canada or Mexico shall be governed by the law of such authority or a separate agreement and is outside the scope of this Agreement; provided, however, that both WECC and NERC shall endeavor to ensure that this Agreement and any such separate agreement are compatible.

~~(e)(d)~~ As a condition to this delegation of authority and subject to the provisions of Section 17 of this Agreement, WECC shall comply with the applicable provisions of NERC's Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Reliability Standards, as from time

to time adopted, approved, or amended.

5. Development and Proposal of Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its Delegated Authority, WECC shall be entitled to:

(i) propose Reliability Standards, Regional Variances, or modifications thereof to NERC, which shall be considered by NERC through an open and inclusive process for proposing and adopting Reliability Standards that affords WECC reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard; and

(ii) develop Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances through WECC's process. WECC's process shall be consistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives. Any changes to WECC's process shall be submitted to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and upon approval, be submitted to the Commission for approval. Proposals approved through WECC's process shall be reviewed by the NERC Board of Trustees after NERC provides notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment. In the case of a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, comments shall be limited to the factors identified in NERC Rule of Procedure 312.3 as it may be amended from time to time. The NERC Board of Trustees shall promptly thereafter consider such proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance, applying the rebuttable presumption described in subsection 5(b) of this Agreement if the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance is from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis, and either approve the proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance and submit it to the Commission for approval, or disapprove it in writing setting forth its reasons. WECC may appeal any disapproval of a proposed Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance to the Commission.

(b) Pursuant to Section 215(d)(3) of the Act, NERC shall rebuttably presume that a proposal from a Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis for a Regional Reliability Standard or Regional Variance or modification thereof to be applicable on an Interconnection-wide basis is just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and in the public interest. Any person challenging such proposal from the Regional Entity organized on an Interconnection-wide basis shall have the burden of proof. NERC shall not find that this presumption has been rebutted except based upon substantial evidence that has been

disclosed to, and been subject to comment by, the Interconnection-wide Regional Entity during NERC's review of the proposal.

6. Enforcement of Compliance with Reliability Standards.

(a) In connection with its delegated authority pursuant to this Agreement, WECC shall enforce Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances) within the boundaries set forth in **Exhibit A** through the compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D**. NERC and WECC agree that this compliance monitoring and enforcement program meets all applicable requirements of the Act, Order No. 672 of the Commission, and the ERO Regulations, including, inter alia, the requirement for an audit program pursuant to Section 39.7(a) of the ERO Regulations, the assessment of penalties pursuant to Section 39.7(c) through 39.7(g) of the ERO Regulations and the requirements for due process. WECC may not change its compliance monitoring and enforcement program set forth in **Exhibit D** absent NERC's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and the approval of the Commission. Subject to the rights and limitations specified in Sections 17 and 18 of this Agreement, WECC agrees to comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure, with any directives issued pursuant to Section 8(c) of this Agreement, and with any guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees or a Board committee pursuant to Section 8(d) of this Agreement, in implementing this program.

(b) WECC shall maintain a program of proactive monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Reliability Standards, in accordance with the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program and the annual ERO Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Implementation Plan.

(c) WECC shall report promptly to NERC information regarding noncompliance with a Reliability Standard, and its eventual disposition by WECC, as set forth in, and subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of, the NERC Rules of Procedure, the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, this Agreement, compliance and enforcement program procedures and guidance that NERC may from time to time develop and the ERO Regulations. NERC shall promptly forward such report to the Commission, as required by the ERO Regulations, or as the Commission shall from time to time direct. NERC and WECC shall cooperate in filing such periodic summary reports and analyses as the Commission

shall from time to time direct.

(d) All dispositions by WECC of noncompliance with Reliability Standards shall be reported to NERC for review. NERC shall develop and implement policies and procedures for the review and, where appropriate, approval of dispositions of noncompliance.

(e) As part of its compliance monitoring and enforcement program, WECC shall maintain a conflict of interest policy that assures the integrity and independence of such program, including the integrity and independence of the persons or decision-making bodies making final determinations in compliance enforcement actions under Section 5.0 of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. Subject to Section 2. (a) (i), WECC may have stakeholders ~~lead or~~ participate in its board compliance committee so long as integrity and independence are assured through reasonable and appropriate recusal procedures.

7. Delegation-Related Activities.

NERC will engage WECC on its behalf to carry out certain of its activities that are in furtherance of Bulk-Power System reliability and NERC's responsibilities as the ERO under the Act or in support of the Delegated Authority, as specified in the NERC Rules of Procedure and listed in **Exhibit E**. NERC may from time to time develop policies or procedures, which shall be used by WECC in the performance of the delegation-related activities. These delegation-related activities shall include, but are not limited to, those described in subsections (a) through (g), each of which shall be considered a statutory activity:

(a) **Certification of Bulk-Power System Entities.** The NERC Board of Trustees shall set criteria for certification in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. Certifications shall be issued in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure.

(b) **Registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as responsible for compliance with requirements of Reliability Standards.**

(i) The NERC Board of Trustees shall develop criteria for registration of owners, operators, and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities in the NERC Rules of Procedure and shall apply the registration criteria to register owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System as Registered Entities.

(ii) NERC shall maintain a registration database of Registered Entities, based

on data and information provided by WECC and other Regional Entities. WECC shall provide timely and accurate information relating to registrations to NERC, as needed, to enable NERC to maintain a registration database that is accurate and up-to-date and to enable NERC to satisfy its monthly reporting obligation.

(iii) The NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee shall hear and decide appeals from owners, operators and users of the Bulk-Power System contesting registration, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. If the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee upholds the decision to register an owner, operator, or user, NERC shall defend the decision in any subsequent appeal of the decision by the Registered Entity to the Commission.

(c) **Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis.** WECC shall develop assessments of the reliability of the Bulk-Power System, or ensure that data and information are collected, analyzed and provided to NERC in support of the development of reliability assessments, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure. WECC shall also develop and maintain, and collect data in support of the development and maintenance of, reliability performance metrics and assessments of risks to the Reliable Operation of the Bulk-Power System, in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and NERC directives, and policies and procedures related to data-gathering, quality control, forms, and reporting mechanisms that NERC may from time to time develop.

(d) **Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement.** WECC shall conduct event analysis pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop. NERC and WECC shall coordinate event analysis to support the effective and efficient use of their collective resources, consistency in event analysis, and timely delivery of event analysis reports. In collaboration with NERC, WECC shall disseminate to the electric industry lessons learned and other information obtained or resulting from event analysis.

(e) **Training and Education.** WECC may provide training and education to Registered Entities, as it deems necessary, in support of its performance of delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. NERC may also provide training and education programs to Registered Entities on topics relating to NERC's responsibilities as the ERO.

(f) **Situation Awareness.** WECC shall gather and assess situation awareness information provided by Registered Entities pursuant to the NERC Rules of Procedure, applicable governmental regulations, and policies and procedures that NERC may from time to time develop, and shall provide other data, information and assistance to NERC in support of NERC's activities in monitoring present conditions, and responding to events, on the Bulk-Power System.

(g) **Critical Infrastructure Security.** WECC shall collaborate with NERC in its efforts to coordinate electric industry activities to promote critical infrastructure protection of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

8. Oversight of Performance of Delegated Functions and Related Activities.

This Section 8 sets forth processes and procedures which the Parties intend shall be used in NERC's oversight of WECC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities pursuant to this Agreement. It is the intent of NERC and WECC that matters relating to NERC's oversight of WECC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities shall be established or resolved by collaboration between NERC and WECC and, where applicable, other Regional Entities, to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the construct that NERC and the Regional Entities are operating together in a collaborative manner to carry out the responsibilities of the ERO under Section 215 of the Act and the ERO Regulations.

(a) (i) NERC shall develop, in collaboration with WECC and other Regional Entities, performance goals, performance reports, measures and other parameters (including, without limiting the scope of such goals, financial performance goals), which shall be used to measure NERC's and WECC's performance of their respective functions and related activities. The performance goals, measures and parameters and the form of performance reports shall be approved by the NERC President and shall be made public. WECC shall provide data, information and reports to NERC, in accordance with established schedules, to enable NERC to calculate WECC's performance to the agreed-upon goals, measures and parameters.

(ii) NERC shall use the performance goals, measures and parameters, and performance reports to evaluate WECC's performance of its delegated functions and related activities and to provide advice and direction to WECC on performance improvements. The

performance goals, measures and other parameters, and the values of such goals, measures and parameters, shall be reviewed by NERC, WECC and the other Regional Entities, revised if appropriate, and made public, on the same timeline as the annual business planning and budgeting process described in Section 9 of this Agreement.

(iii) At the request of the President of NERC, WECC shall be required to develop, submit for NERC approval, and implement action plans to address, areas of its performance that are reasonably determined by NERC, based on analysis of WECC's performance against the performance goals, measures and parameters, or performance of specific activities, to be unsatisfactory, *provided*, that prior to requiring WECC to adopt and implement an action plan or other remedial action, NERC shall issue a notice to WECC of the need and basis for an action plan or other remedial action and provide an opportunity for WECC to submit a written response contesting NERC's evaluation of WECC's performance and the need for an action plan. WECC may request that the President of NERC reconsider the request, and thereafter may request that the NERC Board of Trustees review and reconsider the request. NERC and WECC shall work collaboratively as needed in the development and implementation of WECC's action plan. A final action plan submitted by WECC to NERC shall be made public unless the President of NERC makes a written determination that the action plan or specific portions of the plan should be maintained as non-public.

(b) NERC shall make available to WECC standardized training and education programs, which shall be designed taking into account input from WECC and other Regional Entities, for WECC personnel on topics relating to the delegated functions and related activities.

(c) (i) NERC may issue directives to WECC concerning the manner in which WECC shall perform its delegated functions and related activities under this Agreement. The NERC Rules of Procedure, or any other ERO Rule requiring approval of the Commission, shall not be considered "directives." NERC shall initiate the development of a directive through a collaborative process with WECC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities to which the directive will apply. Any directive developed through the collaborative process shall be approved by, and issued under the signature of, the NERC President.

(ii) If after a period of time that is reasonable under the circumstances, NERC and WECC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, are unable to reach agreement on the

contents of the directive, NERC may issue the directive with the approval of and under the signature of the NERC President.

(iii) Upon issuance of a directive by the NERC President, it shall be binding upon, and shall be complied with by, WECC, subject to reasonable time periods for adoption, implementation, and funding of any necessary resources. Upon request by WECC, the NERC Board of Trustees (or a committee of the Board to which the Board delegates appropriate authority) shall review and shall confirm, revise or revoke any directive that was issued by the NERC President without WECC's agreement, *provided*, that WECC shall request such review within thirty (30) days following issuance of the directive by the NERC President unless good cause can be shown for a later request.

(iv) NERC and WECC and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall collaborate in deciding whether a directive (whether issued pursuant to paragraph (ii) or paragraph (iii)) shall be made public. If no agreement is reached by the date of issuance as to whether the directive shall be made public, the NERC President shall decide whether the directive will be made public, *provided*, that it is the intent of the Parties that the NERC President shall apply a presumption that directives should be made public, unless the NERC President makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining a particular directive as non-public.

(d) In addition to the issuance of directives pursuant to subsection (c), the NERC Board of Trustees (or a Board committee to which the Board has delegated authority) may issue guidance or directions as to the manner in which WECC, and, if applicable, other Regional Entities, shall perform delegated functions and related activities. The NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee shall also establish reasonable time periods for the implementation of any such guidance or directions, taking into account the impact on the reliability of the Bulk-Power System and the need for funding of additional resources. Any such guidance or directions shall be stated in writing and shall be public, unless the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee makes a written determination stating a specific reason for maintaining particular guidance or directions as non-public. WECC, either individually or in conjunction with other Regional Entities, may request that the NERC Board of Trustees or Board committee reconsider or revise the guidance or direction.

(e) NERC shall conduct collaborative reviews with WECC, either individually or in conjunction with one or more other Regional Entities, that provide for the exchange of information on practices, experiences, and lessons learned in the implementation of the delegated functions.

(f) NERC shall perform reviews and audits of WECC on a reasonable periodicity to determine WECC's compliance with this Agreement, any policies or procedures established by NERC, NERC's Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Commission requirements, and directives that are in effect pursuant to Section 8(c) and to monitor the implementation of guidance and directions issued by the NERC Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 8(d). All such periodic reviews and audits shall comply with the NERC Rules of Procedure and Commission directives.

(g) The Commission and the Commission staff shall have full access to action plans and remedial actions, directives, directions and guidance, and audits and reviews issued or conducted pursuant to subsections (a)(iii), (c)(iv), (d), and (f), respectively, that are maintained as non-public.

9. Funding. WECC and NERC shall ensure, subject to Commission approval in accordance with the ERO Regulations, that the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** have reasonable and adequate funding and resources by undertaking the following:

(a) WECC shall develop, through a collaborative process with NERC, and propose, an annual business plan and budget, in accordance with ERO Regulations, Commission orders and NERC business planning and budgeting policies and instructions. WECC's proposed business plan and budget shall describe the activities necessary for, and provide a budget with adequate resources for, WECC to carry out its Delegated Authority under this Agreement, including the functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**. WECC's business plan and budget shall show the funding sources and amounts to fund the proposed budget, including as applicable assessments to end users, penalty monies, and other sources of funds.

(b) WECC and NERC agree that the portion of WECC's approved budget for the

functions and activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E** that is to be funded by assessments, will be equitably allocated among end users within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** and recovered through a formula based on Net Energy for Load, or through such other formula as is proposed by WECC and approved by NERC and the Commission. If WECC proposes to use a formula other than Net Energy for Load beginning in the following year, WECC shall submit the proposed formula to NERC in sufficient time that NERC may review and approve the proposed formula and file it with the Commission by May 15 for approval, and the proposed formula shall be effective for the following year if approved by the Commission on or before the date the Commission approves the annual business plan and budget submitted by NERC and WECC to the Commission pursuant to the ERO Regulations for such year.

(c) NERC shall determine that the assessments to fund the costs for its statutory functions in its Commission-approved budget are first allocated fairly among the Interconnections and regions according to the applicability of this work to those Interconnections and regions, and then equitably among the end users of the applicable interconnections and regions as appropriate. Allocation on a Net Energy for Load basis will be presumed to satisfy this equity requirement.

(d) NERC shall provide WECC with the form or forms for business plan and budget submittal, and any accompanying instructions, in accordance with the schedule for preparation of the business plan and budget developed by NERC and the Regional Entities.

(e) WECC shall submit its proposed annual business plan and budget for carrying out its Delegated Authority functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 and listed in **Exhibit E**, as well as for all other activities of WECC, to NERC for review and approval in accordance with the annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets which shall be developed collaboratively by NERC and the Regional Entities, as more fully described in **Exhibit E**.

(f) NERC shall fund WECC's performance of its Delegated Authority and related activities in accordance with WECC's Commission- approved business plan and budget, in the amount of WECC's assessments to end users approved by the Commission. **Exhibit E** sets forth the procedures and timing for billing and collecting WECC's approved assessments from

end users and other entities and payment of the approved assessment amount to WECC, unless otherwise modified and approved by NERC and the Commission. NERC shall not impose any material obligation or requirement regarding the Delegated Authority upon WECC that has not been provided for in an approved business plan and budget or an approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget, without WECC's consent.

(g) NERC shall develop, in consultation with the Regional Entities, a reasonable and consistent system of accounts, with a level of detail and record keeping comparable to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts and sufficient to allow the Commission to compare each Commission-approved NERC and WECC fiscal year budget with the actual results at the NERC and Regional Entity levels. WECC shall follow NERC's prescribed system of accounts except to the extent that NERC permits a departure from the prescribed system of accounts. NERC shall make an informational filing with the Commission describing any such waiver it permits and providing an explanation supporting the permitted departure.

(h) WECC shall submit unaudited quarterly interim financial statements in form provided by NERC no later than 20 days after the end of the fiscal quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

(i) WECC shall submit audited financial statements annually, including supporting materials, in a form provided by NERC, by no later than the date reasonably required and designated in writing by NERC to enable NERC to assemble and file the required annual budget to actual true up filing with the Commission.

(j) **Exhibit E** to this Agreement sets forth the mechanism through which WECC shall offset penalty monies it receives ~~(other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of WECC)~~ against its next year's annual budget for carrying out functions under this Agreement, ~~and the mechanism by which WECC shall transmit to NERC any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of WECC.~~ *Provided*, that, subject to approval by NERC and the Commission, WECC may propose and implement an alternative use of penalty monies to that set forth in **Exhibit E**.

10. Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by either Party only with the prior

written consent of the other, which consent shall be granted or withheld in such non-assigning Party's sole discretion, subject to approval by the Commission. Any assignment under this Agreement shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. WECC may not delegate in whole or in part its Delegated Authority to any other entity without NERC's express consent; provided, however, that nothing in this provision shall prohibit WECC from contracting with other entities to assist it in carrying out its Delegated Authority, provided WECC retains control and responsibility for such Delegated Authority.

11. Default and Cure. Upon a Breach, the non-breaching Party shall give written notice of such Breach to the breaching Party (the "Default Notice"). Subject to a suspension of the following deadlines as specified below, the breaching Party shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such Breach; *provided however*, that if such Breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) calendar days, the breaching Party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) calendar days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of the Default Notice; and, if cured within such time, the Breach specified in such notice shall cease to exist. Subject to the limitation specified in the following sentence, if a Breach is not cured as provided in this Section 11, or if a Breach is not capable of being cured within the period provided for herein, the nonbreaching Party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement by written notice at any time until cure occurs, and be relieved of any further obligation hereunder. The deadlines for cure and the right to declare a default and terminate this Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 18 of this Agreement to resolve a dispute as to whether a Breach has occurred or been cured. The provisions of this Section 11 will survive termination of this Agreement.

12. Term and Termination.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, ~~2016~~2021 (the "Effective Date").

(b) The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date ("Term"), prior to which time NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that WECC continues to meet all applicable statutory

and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. If WECC meets such requirements, this Agreement may be renewed for another five (5) year term with Commission approval. This Agreement may be renewed for successive additional five (5) year renewal terms, with Commission approval, provided that prior to the end of each renewal term, NERC shall conduct an audit pursuant to the audit requirements of the NERC Rules of Procedure to ensure that WECC continues to meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to maintain its eligibility for delegation. Provided, that either Party may terminate this Agreement ~~as of the end of a term~~ by providing written notice to terminate no later than one year prior to the then effective expiration of the Term. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate upon the expiration of then effective Term, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties.

(c) In the event of the termination of this Agreement, the Parties shall work to provide for a transition of WECC's Delegated Authority to NERC or to another eligible entity and to provide for the resolution of any wind-up costs associated with termination of this Agreement.

(d) If any provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person, entity or circumstance, is held by a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, or if a modification or condition to this Agreement is imposed by a regulatory authority exercising jurisdiction over this Agreement, the Parties shall endeavor in good faith to negotiate such amendment or amendments to this Agreement as will restore the relative benefits and obligations of the signatories under this Agreement immediately prior to such holding, modification or condition. If either Party finds such holding, modification or condition unacceptable and the Parties are unable to renegotiate a mutually acceptable resolution, either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by either Party to the other Party and to the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by WECC and NERC.

(e) Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, provisions contained in Limitation of Liability (Section 13), No Third Party Beneficiaries (Section 14) and Confidentiality (Section 15) shall survive this Agreement in accordance with their terms until sixty (60) days following the expiration of any applicable statute of limitations.

13. Limitation of Liability. WECC and NERC agree not to sue each other or their directors, officers, employees, and persons serving on their committees and subgroups based on any act or omission of any of the foregoing in the performance of duties pursuant to this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, other than seeking a review of such action or inaction by the Commission. NERC and WECC shall not be liable to one another for any damages whatsoever, including without limitation, direct, indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages arising out of or resulting from any act or omission associated with the performance of WECC's or NERC's responsibilities under this Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of Section 215 of the Act, except to the extent that WECC or NERC is found liable for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, in which case WECC or NERC shall not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, multiple, consequential (including without limitation attorneys' fees and litigation costs), exemplary, or punitive damages.

14. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create any duty to, any standard of care with reference to, or any liability to, any third party, except as otherwise specifically provided herein and in Section 15(c).

15. Confidentiality.

(a) During the course of the Parties' performance under this Agreement, a Party may receive proprietary, business sensitive, or critical infrastructure information ("Confidential Information") necessary to fulfill its respective obligations in connection with this Agreement. The Parties agree that their mutual objective under this provision is to provide appropriate protection for Confidential Information, while maintaining the ability to conduct their respective business activities.

(b) No obligation of confidentiality shall apply to any information that the recipient: (i) already possesses without obligation of confidentiality; (ii) develops independently; or (iii) rightfully receives without any obligation of confidentiality from a third party.

(c) The Parties may transfer or exchange such Confidential Information with and between the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries of the terms of this Agreement,

provided the Parties and the other Regional Entities as third-party beneficiaries continue to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(d) Except as set forth herein and within the NERC Rules of Procedure, the Parties agree to keep in confidence and not to copy, disclose, or distribute any Confidential Information or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement, unless disclosure is required by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel. Unless prohibited from doing so under the NERC Rules of Procedure, the recipient shall provide the Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement that provided the Confidential Information with prompt notice of a request or requirement for disclosure of the Confidential Information in order to enable such issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement to (a) seek an appropriate protective order or other remedy, (b) consult with the recipient with respect to taking steps to resist or narrow the scope of such request or legal process, or (c) waive compliance, in whole or in part, with the terms of this Section. In the event a protective order or other remedy is not obtained or the issuing Party or specified third-party beneficiary of this Agreement waives compliance with the provisions, the recipient agrees to furnish only that portion of the Confidential Information which the recipient's counsel advises is legally required and to exercise best efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such Confidential Information. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this Section 15 and the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure, the provisions of Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure shall control.

(e) Each Party shall ensure that its officers, trustees, directors, employees, subcontractors and subcontractors' employees, and agents to whom Confidential Information is exposed are under obligations of confidentiality that are at least as restrictive as those contained herein.

(f) This confidentiality provision does not prohibit reporting and disclosure as directed by NERC, as set forth in Section 6 of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit permitted disclosures as set forth in the NERC Rules of Procedure.

16. Amendment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the terms hereof, may be amended unless such amendment is made in writing, signed by the Parties, and filed with and approved

by the Commission.

17. Amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure. NERC shall not adopt amendments to the NERC Rules of Procedure that conflict with the rights, obligations, or programs of WECC under this Agreement without first obtaining the consent of WECC, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. To the extent WECC does not consent, NERC shall have the right to invoke the dispute resolution provisions of Section 18 and, if such effort fails to resolve the dispute, to petition the Commission to adopt the amendment to the NERC Rules of Procedure. To the extent that the Commission issues an order amending or materially affecting the rights or obligations of WECC under this Agreement, WECC shall have the option, exercisable no later than 60 days after issuance of such order, to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective one year following written notice by WECC to NERC and the Commission, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by WECC and NERC.

18. Dispute Resolution. In the event a dispute arises under this Agreement between NERC and WECC (including disputes relating to NERC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement and/or disputes relating to WECC's performance of its obligations under this Agreement) which cannot be resolved through discussions between representatives of the Parties in the normal course of operations, the Parties shall use the following procedures ("Dispute Resolution") to attempt to resolve the dispute. WECC shall not suspend performance of any delegated function, and the Parties shall continue to make reasonable, good faith efforts to comply with their obligations under this Agreement, during the pendency of Dispute Resolution. All notices required to be sent pursuant to this Dispute Resolution procedure shall be sent in accordance with Section 19 of this Agreement. This Dispute Resolution procedure is separate from and in addition to all other processes provided for in this Agreement.

(a) The Party invoking Dispute Resolution shall send a notice to the other Party describing the dispute, stating the invoking Party's position with respect to the dispute, stating that the Party is invoking Dispute Resolution, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the invoking Party.

(b) Within three (3) business days after receipt of the notice invoking Dispute

Resolution, the receiving Party shall send a notice to the invoking Party acknowledging receipt of the notice invoking Dispute Resolution, stating the receiving Party's position with respect to the dispute, and naming the Party's designated representative for negotiating a resolution of the dispute. The designated representative shall have authority to resolve the dispute on behalf of the receiving Party.

(c) During the period commencing three (3) business days and ending twenty (20) business days after the date of the receiving Party's notice, the designated representatives shall engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute, provided, that the designated representatives may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that the process should move to the next step of Dispute Resolution.

(d) If the designated representatives are unable to arrive at a resolution of the dispute by the end of the time period described in subsection (c), they shall notify the chief executive officers of their respective Parties. The chief executive officers of the Parties shall thereafter engage in good faith negotiations to attempt to resolve the dispute during the period of twenty (20) business days immediately following the time period described in subsection (c), provided, that the chief executive officers may agree prior to the end of such twenty (20) business day period that negotiations are at impasse and the process may move to the next step as described in subsection (f). Upon mutual agreement of the Parties, the twenty (20) business day period may be extended to pursue ongoing good faith negotiations.

(e) If a resolution of the dispute is achieved by the Parties, it shall be memorialized in a writing that is acceptable in form and substance to each party and is signed by the designated representative or chief executive officer on behalf of each Party.

(f) If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute pursuant to the process described in subsections (a) through (e), then either Party may invoke any other available dispute resolution mechanism, including, without limitation, filing a complaint or petition with the Commission requesting resolution of the dispute by the Commission, or filing a complaint for relief in a court having jurisdiction over Parties and the subject matter of the dispute in accordance with Section 20. Provided, however, that: (i) it is the intent of the Parties that unresolved disputes shall be presented to and resolved by the Commission if the Commission has and accepts jurisdiction over the subject matter of the dispute, (ii) the Parties may, by mutual agreement,

attempt to resolve the dispute through arbitration, mediation, or other process involving resort to an impartial neutral, and (iii) it is the intent of the Parties that resolution of disputes through Commission proceedings, arbitration, mediation, or other use of an impartial neutral, is preferred over resort to judicial proceedings.

(g) This Section 18 shall not apply to compliance enforcement actions against individual Registered Entities.

19. Notice. All notices, demands, requests, and other communications required, permitted by, or provided for in this Agreement shall be given in writing to a Party at the address set forth below, or at such other address as a Party shall designate for itself in writing in accordance with this Section, and shall be delivered by hand, email or overnight courier:

If to NERC:

North American Electric Reliability
Corporation
1325 G Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Attn: General Counsel
Email: legal@nerc.net

If to WECC:

Western Electricity Coordinating Council
155 North 400 West,
Suite 200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103
Attn: General Counsel
Email: sgoodwill@wecc.biz

20. Governing Law. When not in conflict with or preempted by federal law, this Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Georgia without giving effect to the conflict of law principles thereof. The Parties recognize and agree not to contest the exclusive or primary jurisdiction of the Commission to interpret and apply this Agreement; provided however that if the Commission declines to exercise or is precluded from exercising jurisdiction of any action arising out of or concerning this Agreement, such action shall be brought in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia. All Parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Georgia for the purpose of hearing and determining any action not heard and determined by the Commission.

21. Headings. The headings and captions in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions hereof.

22. **Savings Clause**. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preempt or limit any authority that WECC may have to adopt reliability requirements or take other actions to maintain reliability of the Bulk-Power System within the geographic boundaries described in **Exhibit A** that are outside the Delegated Authority, as long as such reliability requirements and actions are not inconsistent with Reliability Standards applicable to the region described in **Exhibit A** and do not result in a lessening of reliability outside the region described in **Exhibit A**.

23. **Entire Agreement**. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

24. **Execution of Counterparts**. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each shall have the same force and effect as the original.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representatives, effective as of the Effective Date.

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

WESTERN ELECTRICITY
COORDINATING COUNCIL

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit A — Regional Boundaries

WECC's physical boundaries coincide with the boundaries of the Western Interconnection. The Western Interconnection consists of the synchronously operated electric transmission grid in the western part of North America, which includes parts of Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming, and Mexico and all of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and the Canadian Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. The WECC region encompasses approximately 1.8 million square miles.

WECC's northern border runs along the northern border of British Columbia and Alberta. The western border extends along the western coast of North America from British Columbia into northern Baja California, Mexico. The southern border traverses northern Baja and extends along the southern United States border to Texas. The eastern border bisects North America from Alberta, Canada through the states of Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Texas and New Mexico to the southern United States border.

Exhibit B — Governance

The Regional Entity bylaws shall meet the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: The Regional Entity shall be governed by an independent board, ~~a balanced stakeholder board,~~ or a hybrid board consisting of a combination independent and balanced stakeholder board members. (~~Federal Power Act § 215(e)(4)(A), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(1), Order No. 672 at ¶ 727.~~)

CRITERION 2: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure its independence from the users and owners and operators of the bulk power system, while assuring fair stakeholder representation in the selection of its directors. Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 699, 700.)

CRITERION 3: If the Regional Entity has members, the Regional Entity has established rules that assure that its membership is open, that it charges no more than a nominal membership fee and agrees to waive the fee for good cause shown, and that membership is not a condition for participating in the development of or voting on proposed Regional Reliability Standards. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶¶ 170-173.)

CRITERION 4: The Regional Entity has established rules that assure balance in its decision-making committees and subordinate organizational structures and assure no two industry sectors can control any action and no one industry sector can veto any action. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(A) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2), Order No. 672 at ¶ 728.)

CRITERION 5: The Regional Entity has established rules that provide reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in exercising its duties. (Federal Power Act § 215(c)(2)(D) and (e)(4), 18 C.F.R. § 39.8(c)(2).)

Exhibit C [Intentionally left blank]

Exhibit D — Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program

1.0 REGIONAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

WECC will implement the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, Appendix 4C to the NERC Rules of Procedure (which for purposes of this section 1.0 shall not include Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures), to monitor and enforce compliance with Reliability Standards by the owners, operators, and users within WECC's geographic or electrical boundaries, and such other scope, set forth in **Exhibit A** of this Agreement.

2.0 REGIONAL HEARING OF COMPLIANCE MATTERS

WECC, to the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, shall establish and maintain a hearing body with authority to conduct and render decisions in compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, or a proposed mitigation plan, which shall be either WECC's board, a committee of the board, a balanced compliance panel reporting directly to WECC's board or an independent hearing panel. ~~WECC's hearing body is the Compliance Hearing Body, a committee of the WECC Board comprised solely of directors, as set forth in the WECC Compliance Hearing Body Charter.~~

~~Consistent with the WECC Compliance Hearing Body Charter, hearing panels for individual matters will include directors and may include industry subject matter experts. No industry representative or member class shall control the outcome.~~

To the extent required in the Rules of Procedure, WECC shall conduct all compliance hearings in which a Registered Entity may contest a finding of alleged violation, proposed penalty or sanction, proposed Mitigation Plan, or a proposed Remedial Action Directive, in accordance with Attachment 2, Hearing Procedures, to the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, subject to the following deviations, if any: None.

3.0 OTHER DECISION-MAKING BODIES

None.

Exhibit E — Funding

1. Scope of Activities Funded through the ERO Funding Mechanism

WECC shall include in its annual budget submission to NERC amounts for costs it will incur in performing its delegated functions and related activities as described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement. These activities shall include:

- Reliability Standard Development
- Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement

This category includes activities under the WECC Reliability Management System

- Organization Registration and Certification
- Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (including necessary data gathering activities)

This category includes the WECC Transmission Expansion Planning Program, Loads and Resources Activities, and all necessary supporting activities

- Event Analysis and Reliability Improvement
- Training and Education

This category includes WECC's Training Programs

- Situation Awareness

~~As agreed to by NERC and WECC on an annual basis, this category includes WECC's Reliability Coordinator Functions, Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program, WECC Interchange Tool, and all necessary supporting activities. If sub-delegated by WECC, the costs for the Reliability Coordinator Functions, Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program, WECC Interchange Tool and necessary supporting activities shall not be included in WECC's annual budget submission to NERC but rather shall be included in the budget of Peak Reliability.~~

- Infrastructure Security

2. Preparation of Annual Business Plan and Budget

(a) NERC and WECC, in conjunction with the other Regional Entities, shall collaboratively develop an annual schedule for the development, submission, review and approval of WECC's business plan and budget. The annual schedule for the preparation of business plans and budgets shall require WECC (i) to submit to NERC draft(s) of WECC's proposed business plan and budget and other preliminary documents and information, and (ii) to submit a final proposed business plan and budget that has been approved by the

WECC Board of Directors to NERC by July 1 or such other agreed date as provides sufficient time for NERC's review, approval and submission of WECC's business plan and budget to the Commission 130 days in advance of the beginning of each fiscal year. The WECC business plan and budget submission shall include supporting materials, including WECC's complete business plan and organization chart, explaining the proposed collection of all assessments, dues, fees and charges, and the proposed expenditure of the funds to be collected in sufficient detail to justify the requested budgeted expenditures and assessments. WECC's business plan and budget and proposed assessments shall provide for reasonable reserve mechanisms for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and other contingencies, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) NERC shall review and approve WECC's proposed business plan and budget and proposed assessments for performing the delegated functions and related activities described in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement and listed above in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E**, or shall direct WECC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit WECC's approved business plan and budget and proposed assessments to the Commission for approval as part of NERC's overall business plan and budget submission, in accordance with the ERO Regulations.

3. Allocation of Costs

Assessments to fund the costs of WECC's delegated functions and related activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be allocated among all load-serving entities on the basis of Net Energy for Load, unless a different method(s) of allocating and calculating such assessments has been submitted to and approved by NERC and the Commission in accordance with Section 9(b) of the Agreement. WECC shall submit to NERC annually at the same time it submits its budget request a list of the load-serving entities or designees within its geographic boundaries that shall be responsible for paying WECC's assessment and the load-serving entities' proportionate Net Energy for Load, and such other data and information as is necessary to allocate and calculate the allocation of WECC's assessment to the load-serving entities or designees under the method(s) of allocation and calculation that will be used.

Entities on the list of LSEs or Balancing Authorities will be responsible for collection and/or payment of charges through the mechanism described in either Option 1 or 2 below. Each Balancing Authority will inform WECC by June 1st of each year of its choice of Option 1 or 2, and will give WECC at least 90 days' notice of its intention to change from one option to the other.

- a. **OPTION 1** -- The Balancing Authority will provide WECC a list of all LSEs located within its area, including each LSE's name, contact information, and Net Energy for Load. This information will be updated annually and provided to WECC no later than June 1st of each year. WECC will use this list to bill each LSE for all costs on an annual basis.
- b. **OPTION 2** -- WECC will bill the Balancing Authority for all costs on an annual

basis. The Balancing Authority will be responsible for equitably allocating WECC costs among the LSEs in its area (if applicable) on the basis of Net Energy for Load, collecting the funds, and ensuring that WECC receives full payment on an annual basis.

4. Collection of Funding

(a) NERC and WECC agree that WECC shall act as the billing and collection agent on behalf of NERC to bill and collect the NERC, WECC, and WIRAB assessments from load-serving entities and designees (or such other entities as agreed by NERC and WECC). WECC agrees that it shall (i) issue all invoices to each load-serving entity or Balancing Authority (depending on the Balancing Authority's choice of Option 1 or 2 above) in a prompt and timely manner after receipt from NERC of the information needed to issue the invoices, but no later than November 15th of each year; (ii) exercise commercially reasonable efforts to collect invoices that are not paid as of the due date(s); and (iii) transfer all funds collected to NERC in a timely manner, as follows: Once per week until all billings are collected, WECC will electronically transfer to NERC, in immediately available funds, all payments received by WECC from load-serving entities or other entities for payment of the NERC, WECC, and WIRAB assessments billed on the annual invoices. In the event that (1) ~~WECC includes Peak Reliability assessments (or assessments of a differently named company performing the same functions) on the annual invoices;~~ (2) a payment received is less than the total amount billed for the NERC, WECC, and WIRAB; ~~and Peak Reliability~~ assessments; and (23) WECC does not know and, after due inquiry with the entity submitting the underpayment and consultation with NERC, is unable to determine which invoiced item accounts for the shortfall, WECC shall be permitted to prorate the shortfall among all assessments received from that entity. On the same day that WECC makes each electronic transfer of funds to NERC, WECC shall send an e-mail to the Chief Financial Officer or Controller of NERC detailing the collections being transmitted, including a listing of the load-serving entities or other entities from which payments were collected and the amount collected from each entity and the breakdown of the total payments collected among NERC statutory funding, WECC statutory funding, and WIRAB statutory funding.

WECC agrees that it shall not in any way use its position as billing and collection agent for NERC to attempt to influence NERC's policies or decisions on matters relating to adoption of Reliability Standards (including Regional Reliability Standards and Regional Variances), administration of the compliance monitoring and enforcement program and other compliance and enforcement matters, determination and imposition of penalties and sanctions, budgeting matters including review and approval of WECC's budgets and business plans, or any other NERC decisions, including by issuing invoices, engaging in collection activities or transferring funds collected to NERC in an untimely manner or other than in accordance with this Agreement. To the extent WECC uses another entity as collection agent, it will incorporate these safeguards in the arrangements with the collection agent.

Within three (3) business days following receipt of an electronic transfer of collected assessments from WECC in accordance with Section 4(a) of this **Exhibit E**, NERC will electronically transfer (i) to WECC, in immediately available funds, the portion of the

payment received from WECC constituting WECC statutory funding, and (ii) to WIRAB, in immediately available funds, the portion of the payment received from WECC constituting WIRAB statutory funding.

(b) NERC shall pursue any non-payments of assessment amounts constituting NERC, WECC, and WIRAB statutory funding and shall request assistance from Applicable Governmental Authorities as necessary to secure collection. To the extent reasonably practicable, WECC shall assist NERC in pursuing and collecting any non-payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, WECC is not responsible and does not assume any liability for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts. NERC shall retain sole responsibility for recovering non-payments or underpayments of assessment amounts constituting NERC, WECC, and WIRAB statutory funding. NERC shall add the amount of any non-payments by end-users or designees within WECC's region, that are reasonably determined to be uncollectible, to NERC's assessments for a subsequent year with the amount of such non-payments to be allocated to end-users within WECC's region.

5. Application of Penalties

Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, all penalty monies received by WECC, other than penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of WECC, shall be applied as a general offset to WECC's budget requirements for U.S.-related activities under this Agreement for a subsequent fiscal year. Funds from financial penalties shall not be directly applied to any program maintained by the investigating entity. Except as otherwise approved by the Commission, any penalty monies received from an operational function or division or affiliated entity of WECC shall be transmitted to or retained by NERC and shall be used by NERC as a general offset to NERC's budget for its activities as the ERO under the Act for the following year.

6. Budget and Funding for WECC's Non-Statutory Activities

In addition to its delegated functions and related activities, as specified in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Agreement and in Section 1 of this **Exhibit E** (such delegated functions and activities referred to in this Section 6 as "statutory activities"), WECC performs the following other functions and activities (such other functions and activities being referred to in this Section 6 as "non-statutory activities"): Western Renewable Generation Information System ("WREGIS").

WECC shall employ the following methods and procedures to (i) keep its funding mechanisms for its statutory activities separate from its funding mechanisms for its non-statutory activities, and (ii) record the costs it incurs in the performance of its non-statutory functions separately from the costs it incurs in the performance of its statutory functions: WECC utilizes a fund accounting system with capabilities to segregate receipts and expenses based on function or activity. WECC has segregated non-statutory activities by assigning a separate fund code to those receipts and expenses. All expenditures or receipts that are entered into WECC's accounting system must include a fund code identifying whether the transaction is related to statutory or non-statutory activities.

General and administrative costs are allocated to non-statutory activities based on an FTE ratio that is consistent with NERC's accounting methodology for allocation of overhead to statutory activities. For these reasons, time records are not necessary for WECC to properly allocate costs between statutory and non-statutory activities.

WECC shall provide its budget for such non-statutory activities to NERC at the same time that WECC submits its proposed annual business plan and budget for statutory activities to NERC pursuant to Section 9 of the Agreement. WECC's budget for non-statutory activities that is provided to NERC shall contain a detailed list of WECC's non-statutory activities and a description of the funding sources for the non-statutory activities. WECC agrees that no costs (which shall include a reasonable allocation of WECC's general and administrative costs) of non-statutory activities are to be included in the calculation of WECC's assessments, dues, fees, and other charges for its statutory activities.

7. Amended or Supplemental Business Plans and Budgets

During the course of the fiscal year, if WECC determines it does not or will not have sufficient funds to carry out its delegated functions and related activities, WECC shall submit to NERC one or more proposed amended or supplemental business plans and budgets and requests for approval of supplemental assessments, reflecting costs, cost increases or funding shortfalls not provided for in WECC's approved business plan and budget for the fiscal year. NERC shall review and approve the proposed amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment, or shall direct WECC to make such revisions as NERC deems appropriate prior to approval. NERC shall submit WECC's approved amended or supplemental business plan and budget and proposed supplemental assessment to the Commission for approval.

8. NERC Review of Regional Entity Financial Records

Upon a request made to WECC with reasonable notice, NERC shall have access to and may review all financial records of WECC, including records used to prepare WECC's financial statements. NERC shall conduct reviews of the quarterly and annual financial statements submitted by WECC pursuant to Section 9(h) and (i) of the Agreement. WECC shall provide supporting documentation for the quarterly and annual financial statements as reasonably requested by NERC.