1
2 AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT
3 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUÉBEC
4 RELIABILITY STANDARDS COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND
5 ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

BETWEEN

Régie de l'énergie, a public body established under the *Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie* (CQLR, c. R-6.01) (the "Act") with headquarters at Tour de la Bourse, P.O. Box 001, 800 rue du Square Victoria, 2nd Floor, Suite 2.55, Montréal, Québec H4Z 1A2, acting through Jocelin Dumas, Chair, duly authorized pursuant to section 85.4 of the Act,

hereinafter referred to as "the Régie"

AND

North American Electric Reliability Corporation, a corporate body established under the *New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Act*, New Jersey Statutes Title 15A, with headquarters at Atlanta Financial Center, 3353 Peachtree Road, N.E., Suite 600, Atlanta, Georgia, United States, 30326, acting through James B. Robb, President and Chief Executive Officer, duly authorized pursuant to Article VI, Section 1, of the *Bylaws of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation*,

hereinafter referred to as "NERC"

AND

 Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc., a corporate body established under Section 402 of the *New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation Law,* with headquarters at 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 10th floor, New York, New York, United States, 10018, acting through Charles Dickerson, President and Chief Executive Officer, duly authorized pursuant to the *Amended and Restated Bylaws of Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc.*,

hereinafter referred to as "NPCC."

WHEREAS the Government of Québec pursuant to section 85.4 of the Act, has, through decree number 443-2009 of April 8, 2009, authorized the Régie to enter into an agreement with NERC and NPCC, which agreement was signed on May 8, 2009;

WHEREAS the agreement of May 8, 2009, provided for the entering into a second agreement that set out all the understandings reached by the Régie, NERC and NPCC with respect to the implementation of the "Québec Reliability Standards Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program" (the "QCMEP"), and that the second agreement was executed on September 24, 2014 (the "2014 Agreement");

WHEREAS in accordance with the 2014 Agreement, the Régie, NERC and NPCC carried out their undertakings with respect to the implementation of the QCMEP;

WHEREAS certain processes described in the QCMEP do not correspond anymore to the current practices in regard to reliability standards compliance monitoring and enforcement in North America;

WHEREAS the Régie, NERC and NPCC mutually agreed to amend the QCMEP in order to reflect these practices;

WHEREAS in accordance with the 2014 Agreement, any amendment to the QCMEP is subject to prior agreement between the parties;

WHEREAS this amended and restated agreement (the "Agreement") and the amended and updated QCMEP take into account the comments received by the Régie in the course of the consultation process of the Registered Entities;

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 85.4 of the Act, NPCC and NERC will carry out inspections or investigations provided for under Division II of Chapter III of the Act, in accordance with the QCMEP;

WHEREAS the Régie holds the documents relating to the activities of the QCMEP and preserves and archives such documents, and that NPCC and NERC, for the performance of their responsibilities, must have secure access to the computer system established by the Régie for the purposes of the QCMEP;

NOW THEREFORE, the Régie, NERC and NPCC agree as follows:

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 Exclusivity and Scope of Agreement

This Agreement sets out all the understandings reached by the parties with respect to implementation of the QCMEP, which describes the means by which NPCC and NERC will make inspections and investigations.

The Agreement supplements the agreement signed on May 8, 2009, and succeeds to the 2014 Agreement insofar as it defines the mandates that the Régie continues to grant to NERC and NPCC for the implementation of the QCMEP. All documents relating to monitoring of compliance and the enforcement of electric power transmission standards, including the QCMEP, are available on the Régie's website.

The Agreement should not be construed as delegating the Régie's powers to NERC and NPCC, whose services have been retained in view of their expertise in the assessment and monitoring of electric power transmission Reliability Standards.

The parties acknowledge that they have received a copy of the QCMEP, have read it and consent to all the terms and conditions stipulated in it.

1.2 Governing Law and Competent Jurisdiction

The Agreement is governed by the laws of Québec, and the courts of Québec shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any disputes arising therefrom.

1.3 Headings

The headings of the Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define, limit, or otherwise affect any of the terms or provisions thereof.

2. REPRESENTATIVES

- 54 For the purposes of the application of the Agreement, the Régie designates Félix Turgeon,
- 55 Executive Director, Planning and Regulation, as its representative. NERC and NPCC
- designate Sônia C. Mendonça, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate
- 57 Secretary and Charles Dickerson, President and Chief Executive Officer, as their respective
- representative. Each of the parties undertakes to expeditiously give notice to the other parties
- of any change in its representative.

3. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

Further to the changes to the QCMEP, the Régie continues to retain the services of NERC and NPCC to monitor and assess the compliance of Registered Entities in Québec with the Reliability Standards adopted by the Régie with respect to electric power transmission in Québec in accordance with the Implementation Plan prepared by NPCC and submitted each year to the Régie for approval after prior review by NERC.

4. UNDERTAKING OF THE RÉGIE

The Régie maintains the Data Repository for the implementation of activities relating to monitoring and the enforcement of electric power transmission Reliability Standards and the filing of documents relating to the QCMEP.

The Régie grants NERC and NPCC secure access to information in the Data Repository for the performance of their respective duties under the Agreement and the QCMEP.

The Régie provides NPCC and NERC remote access to Non-Public Information on the Data Repository for the performance of their respective duties.

With respect to audits of NPCC, the Régie undertakes to ensure the scope, schedule and frequency of audits are reasonable.

5. UNDERTAKINGS OF NERC AND NPCC

5.1 NPCC implements the QCMEP and makes relevant recommendations to the Régie.

5.2 NPCC reports to the Régie its assessment as to whether a Registered Entity may have failed to comply with the Reliability Standards adopted by the Régie. It also submits to the Régie its recommendations with respect to the actions to be taken to ensure compliance with the Reliability Standards, including recommendations on financial penalties or sanctions.

5.3 NPCC recommends financial penalties or sanctions to the Régie on the basis of the Sanction Guide for the Enforcement of the Reliability Standards in effect in Québec.

5.4 NPCC examines the Mitigation Plan submitted by the entity concerned and makes a recommendation to the Régie, upon which the Régie makes a decision in accordance with section 85.12 of the Act.

5.5 NPCC makes a recommendation, after consulting the Reliability Coordinator, to the Régie concerning the need to order Remedial Actions, upon which the Régie will make a decision in accordance with section 85.12.1 of the Act.

 5.6 In the performance of the responsibilities assigned to it by the Régie, NPCC is authorized to issue notices, require documents, conduct investigations and inspections, and, upon reasonable notice, enter the premises of a Registered Entity at any reasonable hour in connection with QCMEP-related activities.

5.7 NERC ensures continuity of the QCMEP in the event that NPCC withdraws from the Agreement or the Régie determines, after consultation with NERC, that NPCC does not conform to the essential obligations set forth in the Agreement or the essential obligations set forth in the applicable provisions of the QCMEP. In this event, all the provisions of the Agreement that apply to NPCC apply to NERC, or to another regional entity with delegated authority from NERC to which the Régie and NERC mutually agree to assign NPCC's responsibilities.

5.8 NERC oversees the services provided by NPCC in connection with the QCMEP.

5.10 After a request by the Régie for an audit of NPCC by NERC, NPCC agrees with the Régie on a reasonable schedule for the audit given its scope.

5.11 When processing information, NPCC and NERC implement data management methods that address data integrity, data retention, data security and data confidentiality. NPCC and NERC file management policies must include systematic and orderly procedures for the retention and destruction of electronic and hard-copy data relating to the QCMEP consistent with the legal and regulatory provisions applicable in Québec.

5.12 At the completion of a monitoring or investigation process, NPCC and NERC shall destroy all information and data they hold in connection with the process after filing on the Data Repository any such information or data necessary to ensure that the Data Repository contains all useful information pertinent to the process. Such information shall be retained by the Régie for consultation as required. NPCC and NERC shall preserve all confidentiality markings in the information and data they handle.

5.13 With the exception of the Reliability Standards and unless the Régie instructs otherwise, NERC and NPCC shall provide English and French versions of the information collection forms and documentation connected with the implementation of the QCMEP to allow them to be posted on the Régie's website and integrated into the Data Repository, if applicable.

5.14 NERC and NPCC shall ensure that, with respect to the implementation of the QCMEP, all communications in writing with Registered Entities and all documents submitted to them and to the Régie are in French.

 5.15 Any meeting between NPCC or NERC and a Registered Entity, during a Compliance Audit, Compliance Investigation or any other activity provided for in the QCMEP, must be held in Montréal or elsewhere in Québec with simultaneous translation into French, unless the participants agree otherwise.

5.16 Hearings held by the Régie as part of the QCMEP shall take place in the Régie's offices in Montréal. Hearings relating to a Non-Compliance shall be held behind closed doors. NPCC may attend such hearings, even if NPCC is not requested to attend such hearings by the Régie pursuant to Section 9b. NERC may attend such hearings on Non-Compliances found during a Compliance Investigation it led, even if it not requested to attend such hearings by the Régie pursuant to Section 9b.

 5.17 If the Régie holds a hearing relating to a Non-Compliance with a Reliability Standard, NPCC makes available in the Régie's offices, for consultation and reproduction by the entity concerned, all the information relevant to the Non-Compliance that was prepared or obtained during the process leading to the hearing, with the exception of any document or part of a document that contains Privileged Information.

NERC

6.1 NERC provides guidance to NPCC with respect to the ERO Enterprise implementation plan; this plan specifies the Reliability Standards associated to the ERO Enterprise risk elements.

6.2 Each year, NERC reviews NPCC's annual Implementation Plan to ensure that it is consistent with ERO Enterprise's annual implementation plan and applies fairly and impartially.

6.3 NERC assesses NPCC's non-public *QCMEP Annual Implementation Report* annually and submit its assessment to the Régie by April 1.

 6.4 NERC shall develop and provide training in auditing skills to all people who participate in NPCC's Compliance Audits. Training for NPCC personnel or others who serve as Compliance Audit team leaders shall be more extensive than training for technical subject matter experts. Training for technical subject matter experts and NPCC personnel may be delegated to NPCC.

6.5 Upon request by the Régie, NERC shall lead a Compliance Investigation.

NPCC

6.6 NPCC monitors and assesses compliance with the Reliability Standards in accordance
 with the QCMEP.

6.7 NPCC ensures that it has sufficient and competent resources to meet its assigned QCMEP-related responsibilities, including the necessary personnel to manage and implement the program.

6.8 NPCC may, with agreement from the Régie, call upon technical subject matter experts or NPCC personnel to benefit from their expertise during compliance-related activities. Such persons must not have any conflict of interest or any financial interest connected with the outcome of their involvement in such activities, and will be considered representatives of NPCC when carrying out such activities.

 6.9 The technical subject matter experts or NPCC personnel must have successfully completed the auditor training provided by NERC or NPCC before taking part in a Compliance Audit or Compliance Investigation as a member of an audit or investigation team.

 6.10 In addition, NPCC may consult technical subject matter experts and NPCC members or NPCC committee members with expertise in compliance-related activities. Such persons must not have any conflict of interest or any financial interest connected with the outcome of their involvement in such activities, and must comply with appropriate confidentiality rules. Such persons may not, however, rule on the existence of a Non-Compliance or the relevance of financial penalties or sanctions, or Remedial Actions, or provide opinions on Mitigation Plans or proposed settlements submitted by the entities concerned.

6.11 NPCC provides NERC with its annual Implementation Plan by October 1 of each year, or on another date as agreed by the parties.

6.12 By November 1 of each year, or on another date as agreed by the parties, NPCC submits its Implementation Plan for the following calendar year, or the remainder of the current year as appropriate, to the Régie for approval, after prior review by NERC. Once approved by the Régie, this Implementation Plan and NPCC's other relevant compliance documents shall be made available on the Régie's website.

6.14 NPCC provides the Régie and NERC with reports and non-public summary status reports, as specified in QCMEP Section 8. All reports are available in the Data Repository.

6.15 In the provision of its services, NPCC uses the following processes, in accordance with the QCMEP and the Régie's orders: (1) Compliance Audits, (2) Self-Certifications, (3) Spot Checks, (4) Compliance Investigations, (5) Non-Compliance Self-Report, (6) Periodic Data Submittals, and (7) investigations following a Complaint. These processes are described in the QCMEP; the latter also includes definitions of certain terms used in this Agreement.

7. MITIGATION PLANS FOR VIOLATIONS AND NON-COMPLIANCES

 NPCC assesses the Mitigation Plan submitted by the Registered Entity and makes its recommendations to the Régie, which disposes of the matter in accordance with section 85.12 of the Act. The process, with respect to the submission and the implementation of a Mitigation Plan, is detailed in the QCMEP.

8. REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The Régie may order a Registered Entity to perform Remedial Actions when an inspection or inquiry reveals that the Registered Entity is in Non-Compliance with a Reliability Standard and is thus seriously compromising the reliability of electric power transmission. The process with respect to the Remedial Actions is described in the QCMEP.

9. **RESOURCES**

NERC and NPCC undertake to:

a. Have competent resources that are qualified to ensure implementation of the QCMEP;

 b. Make available to the Régie staff members or other individuals whose services were retained in connection with the QCMEP when hearings or meetings with Registered Entities are held;

c. Designate a staff member qualified to respond within five (5) business days to

 requests from the Régie relating to activities under this Agreement.

NPCC also undertakes to have competent resources that are qualified to monitor the Régie's orders related to the QCMEP.

The Régie undertakes to:

Reliability Standards to serve as the contact for NERC and NPCC; and

ii. Inform NERC and NPCC in a timely fashion of any applicable amendments to the

Designate a staff member who is thoroughly familiar with the QCMEP and the

 law applicable in Québec affecting the terms of this Agreement and make available legal counsel for any discussion of the scope of such amendments.

11. REMUNERATION

NERC and NPCC are remunerated at the beginning of each quarter for services under the May 8, 2009 agreement and this Agreement. Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie and the Régie split the payment as per the provisions of section 5 of the agreement of May 8, 2009.

In addition to this remuneration, the parties agree that reasonable fees incurred by NERC and NPCC for any simultaneous translation or translation of documents related to the delivery of services by NERC and NPCC shall be reimbursed by the Régie. These translation services are billed at cost to the Régie at the end of each quarter by NERC and NPCC, separately. Certain translation services, such as, but not limited to, the fees incurred by NERC and NPCC for the services of interpreters in the event of an upcoming monitoring process, may be billed prior to the commencement of the process. Terms of payment are net 30 days after receipt of the invoice.

12. DECLARATIONS

NERC and NPCC do hereby declare that no applicable law, contract or other legal obligation prevents them from executing the Agreement and fulfilling their obligations hereunder.

The Régie declares that it has been duly authorized by the Government of Québec to enter into the Agreement, pursuant to section 85.4 of the Act.

13. TERM, TERMINATION, AND AMENDMENT

The Agreement is effective as of the date of the last signing by the parties.

Any party may terminate the Agreement upon one (1) year's notice to the other parties concerned.

This Agreement may only be amended upon an agreement reduced to writing, executed by the parties, and authorized by the government of Québec.

14. **DEFAULT AND CURE**

 Upon the failure of a party to perform or observe any obligation of the Agreement, 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) days from receipt of the Default Notice within which to cure such breach.

If such breach is not capable of cure within thirty (30) days, the breaching party shall commence such cure within thirty (30) days after notice and continuously and diligently complete such cure within ninety (90) days from receipt of the Default Notice.

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 within the period provided for, the non-breaching party shall have the right to declare a default and terminate the 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 the Agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of any efforts or proceedings in accordance with Section 14 of the Agreement to resolve a dispute.

Termination of the Agreement does not extinguish any obligation existing at the time of the termination.

15. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

If a dispute arises under the Agreement, representatives of the parties with authority to settle the dispute shall meet and confer in good faith in an effort to resolve the dispute in a timely manner. In the event the designated representatives are unable to resolve the dispute within thirty (30) days or such other period as the parties may agree upon, each party shall have all rights to pursue all remedies, except as expressly limited by the terms of the Agreement. No party shall have the right to pursue other remedies until the dispute resolution procedure of this Section 14 has been exhausted.

16. MEDIATION AND ARBITRATON

Any claim, controversy, or dispute arising between the parties with respect to the Agreement, shall be referred to non-binding mediation for resolution administered by the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR - Canada) under its Canadian Mediation Rules, before resorting to arbitration, litigation or some other dispute resolution procedure. If such mediation effort is not successful in resolving the dispute, the dispute shall be settled by and through an arbitration proceeding to be administered by ICDR – Canada, under its Canadian Arbitration Rules, in Montréal, Québec, Canada. Each of the parties to this Agreement hereby agrees and consents to such venue and waives any objection thereto. The arbitrability of any such dispute, claim or controversy shall likewise be determined in such arbitration. Such arbitration proceeding shall be conducted in as expedited a manner as is then permitted by the Canadian Arbitration Rules (formal or informal) of the ICDR. Both the foregoing agreement of the parties to this Agreement to arbitrate any and all such disputes, claims and controversies and the results, determinations, findings, judgments and/or awards rendered through any such arbitration shall be final and binding on the parties hereto and may be specifically enforced by legal proceedings.

17. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

None of the parties to the Agreement nor any officer, director, board trustee, employee, or any volunteer or member on any committee, working group, or task force of any party (collectively, the "Protected Parties"), shall be held liable for any loss or damage to one or more of the other parties caused by reason of any act or omission in the good faith performance of their respective duties pursuant to the Agreement or in conducting activities under the authority of the Act, except for liabilities arising from intentional or gross fault or liabilities that are not permitted to be excluded or limited pursuant to applicable law in Québec. This Section 16 shall survive termination of the Agreement and no amendment or repeal of this Section 16 shall eliminate or reduce the protection offered hereby to the Protected Parties.

18. ASSIGNMENT

Subject to Section 5.7, NERC and NPCC may not assign their respective rights and obligations under the Agreement without the consent of the Régie.

19. CONFIDENTIALITY

18.1 All data related to the QCMEP that is not public information is designated as Restricted Information, Privileged Information, Personal Information or Non-Public Information.

18.2 Privileged Information may only be disclosed to personnel explicitly designated by the Régie and cannot be disclosed to third parties.

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18.4 Personal Information cannot be accessed from outside Québec, nor sent or brought out of Québec, in accordance with the *Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information* (CQLR, c. A-2.1).

18.5 NPCC and NERC cannot remotely access Restricted Information or Personal Information.

18.6 NPCC and NERC can remotely access Non-Public Information on the Data Repository for the performance of their respective duties under the Agreement and the QCMEP. Non-Public Information may not be disclosed or shared with any third party without the written permission of the Régie.

18.7 By default, data submitted by entities under provisions of the QCMEP is Non-Public Information, unless the Régie rules otherwise.

18.8 All data other than entity data that is generated or obtained in the implementation of the QCMEP is Non-Public Information by default, unless it is Privileged Information or unless the Régie rules otherwise.

18.9 Once designated, only a Régie ruling can modify the designation of information.

18.10 Except when an entity makes public its own information, only the Régie may make information related to the QCMEP public.

18.11 A Registered Entity may request that the Régie designate some information related to the QCMEP as Restricted Information. The Régie rules on such requests.

18.12 Any entity or party submitting information that could contain Personal Information must request that the Régie designate that information as Personal Information. The Régie rules on such requests.

18.13 The parties recognize that the officers, directors, employees, representatives and agents of both NERC and NPCC are already subject to codes of conduct which provide, among other things, for the maintenance of confidentiality of information disclosed during the course of duties performed and that such obligation includes, among other things, the duty to maintain the confidentiality of information received while performing QCMEP activities.

18.14 NERC and NPCC agree to ensure that as they collect information in their work under the QCMEP, they will promptly transfer this information into the Data Repository and destroy the information in their possession so as to effectively transfer possession to the Régie. NERC and NPCC recognize that the information to support the implementation of the QCMEP is stored within Québec and is possessed by the Régie only.

18.15 The Régie administers the access to the Data Repository. It maintains a register of authorized personnel and accesses are logged. The content of the logs are Non-Public Information, except where the Régie rules that it is Privileged Information. The Régie rules on any requests to review the register.

18.16 The access codes the Régie provides NERC and NPCC personnel to access specific information within the Data Repository belong to the Régie, are issued and modified at the discretion of the Régie, and may not be shared between personnel, nor disclosed to any other party, without the written consent of the Régie.

18.17 If NPCC or NERC need to work offline with some information, written consent must be obtained from the Régie and any conditions the Régie imposes for its consent must be respected.

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18.18 In relation to Sections 18.14 and 18.17, little information will be within NERC or NPCC's possession at any given time. If a party could be required to disclose information in its possession, it will inform the relevant other parties prior to the release of the information in order to allow the relevant party the opportunity to protect its interest. In the event that the party cannot obtain relief from the requirement to disclose information, it agrees to, notwithstanding Section 18.6, furnish only that portion of the information that is consistent with the scope of the request and to exercise reasonable efforts to obtain assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded such information. NPCC and NERC will provide reasonable cooperation to the Régie and its legal counsel with respect to performance of the covenants undertaken pursuant to this paragraph.

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18.19 The Régie records in a register requests or requirements to disclose information as described in Section 18.18. The Régie may make this register public on its website.

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18.20 Information that NPCC and NERC deems useful for their own future reference will be stored on the Data Repository. The Régie takes possession of this information and will ensure its integrity. The Régie may delete this information, consistent with its own information retention policies, after obtaining comments on the proposed deletion from the relevant entity, NPCC or NERC.

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19. THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES

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Nothing in the Agreement shall be construed as creating an obligation or liability to any third party.

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20. NOTICE

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All notices, requests, formal demands and other communications required or provided for in the 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 or reputable overnight courier.

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39 Mr. Félix Turgeon, Executive Director, Planning and Regulation La Régie: 40 Tour de la Bourse, case postale 001 800, rue du Square Victoria 41 2^e étage, bureau 2.55

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43 Montréal (Québec) H4Z 1A2

Fax: 514 873-3037

E-mail: felix.turgeon@regie-energie.qc.ca

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NERC: Ms. Sônia C. Mendonça, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and

Corporate Secretary

1401 H Street, N.W., Suite 410 49

Washington, D.C. 50 United States, 20005 51 Fax: 202 644-8099 52

53 E-mail: sonia.mendonca@nerc.net

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55 NPCC: Mr. Damase Hebert, Compliance Attorney and Director of Enforcement

1040 Avenue of the Americas, 10th floor

57 New York, NY 58 United States, 10018 59 Fax: 212 302-2782

E-mail: dhebert@npcc.org 60

21. EXECUTION OF COUNTERPARTS The Agreement is executed in four (4) counterparts in French and four (4) counterp English and each has the same force and effect as the original. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused the Agreement, in French a English, both versions being regarded as equally authentic and valid, to be executed by duly authorized representative and to be in effect on the last date signed below. Signed for and on behalf of the Régie Signed for and on behalf of NERO			
		Loudi Den	JumaBlott
		Jocelin Dumas Chairman Régie de l'énergie	James B. Robb President and Chief Executive Off North American Electric Reliability
(514) 873-2452, extension 7281	Corporation (404) 446-2560		
on September 15, 2022	on September 9, 2022		
at Montréal (Québec) Canada	at Atlanta, GA		
Signed for and on behalf of NPCC			
CA R			
Charles Dickerson President and Chief Executive Officer			
Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. (212) 840-1070			
on <u>September</u> , 13, 2022			
at New York, NY			