

September 4, 2020

By Electronic Delivery

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Joint Filing of an Executed Small Generator Interconnection Agreement Among the New York Independent System Operator, Inc., Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid and ELP Stillwater Solar, LLC; and Request for Waiver of the 60-Day Notice Period; Docket No. ER20-____-000

Dear Ms. Bose:

Pursuant to Section 205 of the Federal Power Act¹ and Section 35.13 of the Commission's regulations,² the New York Independent System Operator, Inc. ("NYISO") and Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid") (together, the "Joint Filing Parties") hereby tender for filing an executed Small Generator Interconnection Agreement entered into by the NYISO, National Grid, as the Connecting Transmission Owner, and ELP Stillwater Solar LLC ("Stillwater"), as the Developer (the "Interconnection Agreement").³ The Interconnection Agreement is labeled as Service Agreement No. 2550 under the NYISO's Open Access Transmission Tariff ("OATT").

The Joint Filing Parties respectfully request that the Commission accept the Interconnection Agreement for filing. With the limited exceptions described in Part I of this letter, the Interconnection Agreement conforms to the NYISO's *pro forma* Small Generator Interconnection Agreement ("Pro Forma SGIA") that is contained in Attachment Z to the OATT. Further, as described in Part II of this letter, the Joint Filing Parties respectfully request a waiver of the Commission's prior notice requirements⁴ to make the Interconnection Agreement effective as of August 31, 2020, which is the date of its full execution.

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824d.

² 18 C.F.R. § 35.13 (2019).

³ Capitalized terms that are not otherwise defined in this filing letter shall have the meaning specified in Attachment Z of the NYISO OATT, and if not defined therein, in the NYISO OATT and NYISO Market Administration and Control Area Services Tariff.

⁴ See *Prior Notice and Filing Requirements Under Part II of the Federal Power Act*, 64 FERC ¶ 61,139, clarified, 65 FERC ¶ 61,081 (1993).

I. DISCUSSION

A. Background

Stillwater is constructing a 20 MW solar generation facility located in Stillwater, New York (“Facility”). Additional details regarding the Facility can be found in Attachment 2 of the Interconnection Agreement.

The Facility will interconnect to certain facilities of National Grid that are part of the New York State Transmission System. The Point of Interconnection will be at National Grid’s 115 kV Schaghticoke-Luther Forest Line 3 between structures 35 and 36. Attachment 3 of the Interconnection Agreement includes a one-line diagram showing the Point of Interconnection.

B. The Agreement Closely Conforms to the Pro Forma SGIA Contained in Attachment Z of the NYISO OATT

The Interconnection Agreement was fully executed on August 31, 2020, by the NYISO, National Grid, and Stillwater. The Interconnection Agreement largely conforms to the language in the Pro Forma SGIA contained in Attachment Z of the NYISO OATT with the limited exceptions described below in this Part I.B. The Joint Filing Parties submit that the changes specified below satisfy the Commission’s standard for variations from the Pro Forma SGIA, because unique circumstances exist that require a non-conforming agreement.⁵ Therefore, the Joint Filing Parties respectfully request that the Commission accept the Interconnection Agreement with the limited non-conforming changes.

1. Stillwater’s Construction of Connecting Transmission Owner’s Interconnection Facilities

Section 1.5.3 of the Pro Forma SGIA provides that the Connecting Transmission Owner shall construct, operate, and maintain its Interconnection Facilities and Upgrades covered by the agreement. National Grid and Stillwater have agreed that Stillwater will be responsible for constructing certain Connecting Transmission Owner’s Interconnection Facilities associated with the Facility. Accordingly, the parties agreed to modify Section 1.5.3 of the Interconnection Agreement to clarify that the Interconnection Customer, Stillwater, can construct Connecting Transmission Owner’s Interconnection Facilities with the agreement of all parties. The Commission has previously accepted this change to the Pro Forma SGIA.⁶

⁵ See, e.g., *PJM Interconnection, LLC*, 111 FERC ¶ 61,163 at PP 10-11, *reh’g denied*, 112 FERC ¶ 61,282 (2005).

⁶ See *New York Independent System Operator, Inc. and New York State Electric & Gas Corporation*, Letter Order, Docket No. ER20-1602-000 (June 18, 2020) (accepting modification to Section 1.5.3 to permit Interconnection Customer to construct Connecting Transmission Owner’s Interconnection Facilities); *New York Independent System Operator, Inc. and New York State Electric & Gas Corporation*, Letter Order, Docket No. ER20-1602-000 (June 18, 2020) (same).

2. Modifications to Address Execution of Interconnection Agreement Prior to Completion of Class Year Study

Stillwater has elected to seek Capacity Resource Interconnection Service (“CRIS”) and is participating in the current Class Year Interconnection Facilities Study (“Class Year Study”) for Class Year 2019, which is still underway. The Class Year Study determines whether any System Deliverability Upgrades are required for the Facility to be fully deliverable at its requested level of CRIS.

Since the Class Year Study was not completed at the time the parties executed the Interconnection Agreement, the parties modified Section 1.3.1 of the Interconnection Agreement to provide that the NYISO’s provision of CRIS is subject to the requirements in Attachment 5 of the Interconnection Agreement. Attachment 5 provides that if any System Deliverability Upgrades for the Facility are identified in the Class Year Study, the parties shall amend the Interconnection Agreement after Stillwater has accepted its Project Cost Allocation for the Class Year to reflect such facilities. In addition, Attachment 5 provides that Stillwater may not supply Unforced Capacity to the New York Control Area from the Facility until it has complied with the deliverability requirements set forth in Attachment S of the OATT, including acceptance of any cost allocation for System Deliverability Upgrades and the posting of associated security or payments. The Commission has previously accepted these types of changes to the NYISO’s *pro forma* interconnection agreements where, as here, a developer was participating in a pending Class Year Study at the time the interconnection agreement was executed.⁷

II. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE AND REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF THE 60-DAY NOTICE PERIOD

The Joint Filing Parties request an effective date of August 31, 2020, for the Interconnection Agreement, which is the date of its full execution. The Joint Filing Parties respectfully request that the Commission waive its prior notice requirement to permit the requested effective date. The Commission has previously permitted interconnection agreements to become effective upon the date of execution.⁸

III. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

All communications and service in this proceeding should be directed to:

⁷ See, e.g., *New York Independent System Operator, Inc.*, Letter Order, Docket No. ER11-2199-000 (December 28, 2010) (accepting revisions to CRIS requirements in Pro Forma LGIA to reflect the timing of the execution of the interconnection agreement).

⁸ See, e.g., *New York Independent System Operator, Inc. and New York State Electric & Gas Corporation*, Letter Order, Docket No. ER11-2953-000 (April 7, 2011) (accepting interconnection agreement effective as of date of execution); see also *New York Independent System Operator, Inc. and Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.*, Letter Order, Docket No. ER08-985-000 (June 26, 2008) (same); *New York Independent System Operator, Inc. and New York Power Authority*, Letter Order, Docket No. ER08-861-000 (May 27, 2008) (same); *New York Independent System Operator, Inc. and New York Power Authority*, Letter Order, Docket No. ER08-699-000 (May 16, 2008) (same).

For the NYISO⁹

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IV. DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED

The Joint Filing Parties submit the following documents with this filing letter:

- A clean version of the Interconnection Agreement (Attachment I);
- A blacklined version of the Interconnection Agreement showing the changes from the Pro Forma SGIA (Attachment II); and
- The signature pages for the Interconnection Agreement (Attachment III).

⁹ The NYISO respectfully requests waiver of 18 C.F.R. § 385.203(b)(3) (2019) to permit service on counsel in both Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA.

V. SERVICE

On behalf of the Joint Filing Parties, the NYISO will send an electronic link to this filing to the official representative of each of its customers, to each participant on its stakeholder committees, to the New York Public Service Commission, and to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. In addition, a complete copy of the documents included with this filing will be posted on the NYISO's website at www.nyiso.com.

VI. CONCLUSION

Wherefore, the Joint Filing Parties respectfully request that the Commission accept the Interconnection Agreement for filing with an effective date of August 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

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