

February 4, 2015

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

**Re: Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, d/b/a National Grid  
Docket No. ER15-\_\_\_\_-000  
Interconnection Agreement with Village of Boonville**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to Section 205 of the Federal Power Act (“FPA”),<sup>1</sup> and Part 35 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (“Commission”) regulations,<sup>2</sup> Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a/ National Grid (“National Grid”) submits for Commission acceptance an Interconnection Agreement (“IA”) between National Grid and the Village of Boonville (“Boonville”). The attached IA (the “Boonville IA”) is designated as Service Agreement No. 2204 under the New York Independent System Operator Corporation’s (“NYISO”) Open Access Transmission Tariff (“OATT”).

National Grid requests that the Commission grant waiver of its notice requirement and accept the Boonville IA effective as of the date it was executed, January 15, 2015.

## **I. Background**

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid is a public utility subsidiary of National Grid USA serving retail electric customers in New York. National Grid is an owner of transmission facilities subject to the operational control of the NYISO.

Boonville is a municipal corporation located in New York that owns and operates a load-serving municipal electric system interconnected to the transmission system of National Grid. Boonville takes transmission service under the NYISO OATT. National Grid and Boonville are not parties to any prior interconnection agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. § 824d.

<sup>2</sup> 18 C.F.R. Part 35.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid is interconnected to 29 municipal electric systems in the State of New York. The majority of these municipal interconnections are not governed by any existing interconnection agreement. National Grid has, however, entered into and received Commission acceptance of certain interconnection agreements with a small number of New York municipal electric systems in the past, in particular the Interconnection Agreement between National Grid and the Village of Solvay, New York (“Solvay IA”) accepted by the Commission in Docket No. ER03-1304-000.

In recent years, National Grid determined that it would be beneficial to develop a standard municipal interconnection agreement that will document terms and conditions related to the interconnection of the National Grid system and a number of municipal electric systems in New York. Among other things, such a standard municipal interconnection agreement will allow the parties to document certain terms and conditions related to the interconnection of their respective systems and the manner by which National Grid and the interconnected municipal will coordinate to ensure the ongoing reliability of the New York State Transmission System.

National Grid developed a draft of such a standard New York municipal interconnection agreement incorporating elements of both the Solvay IA and the *pro forma* Large Generator Interconnection Agreement set forth in Appendix 6 of Attachment X to the NYISO OATT. National Grid then engaged in negotiations over a number of years with the Municipal Electric Utilities Association of New York State (“MEUA”) to further refine the standard municipal interconnection agreement to address the particular needs of New York municipal electric systems.<sup>3</sup> In late 2014, National Grid provided a final draft of the standard municipal interconnection agreement to the NYISO.<sup>4</sup> The NYISO requested a number of minor modifications to the agreement, which were agreed to by both National Grid and the MEUA.

The Village of Boonville is a member of the MEUA. The Boonville IA is the first agreement filed with the Commission based on the final negotiated standard municipal interconnection agreement. The negotiation of the Boonville IA was triggered by recent work to study improvements to the interconnection of the Boonville municipal electric system to the transmission system of National Grid. National Grid intends to use the Boonville IA as the template for all future interconnection agreements with New York municipal electric systems, recognizing that minor modifications from this template may be appropriate in some circumstances to reflect the needs of individual municipal electric systems.

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<sup>3</sup> The Interconnection Agreement between National Grid and the Village of Ilion, New York accepted by the Commission in Docket No. ER11-3886-000 was based on an early version of this standard municipal interconnection agreement.

<sup>4</sup> Consistent with prior municipal interconnection agreements accepted by the Commission in Docket Nos. ER03-1304 and ER11-3886, the Boonville IA is a two-party agreement. National Grid’s understanding is that the NYISO does not desire to be a party to such municipal interconnection agreements.

## **II. The Boonville IA**

The Boonville IA documents terms and conditions related to the interconnection of the National Grid and Boonville systems and the manner in which National Grid and Boonville will coordinate to ensure the ongoing reliability of the New York State Transmission System.<sup>5</sup> The following discussion addresses some of the more significant elements of the IA. The Boonville IA is to become effective as of the date of execution (*i.e.*, January 15, 2015) and remain in effect for twenty years.<sup>6</sup>

Article II of the Boonville IA sets forth general terms and conditions under which the Boonville system is interconnected to and operates in parallel with the National Grid transmission system. This Article, along with Exhibit A, defines the respective Interconnection Facilities of the Parties. Section 2.5 provides that Boonville and National Grid shall each be responsible for protection of their respective facilities consistent with Good Utility Practice and Applicable Reliability Standards. National Grid expects that individual protection arrangements may be advisable for other interconnected municipal electric systems in certain circumstances.

Article III sets forth general representations and warranties of the Parties.

Section 4.1.1 makes it clear that the provisions of the Boonville IA (including Article IV) addressing the design, engineering, procurement, and construction of Interconnection Facilities and Upgrades shall apply to the Interconnection Facilities and the Upgrades associated with any new, modified, or upgraded delivery point. Section 4.4 governs the respective access rights of the Parties.

Section 5.1 governs the operation and maintenance of the Interconnection Facilities and provides for National Grid and Boonville to confer regularly to coordinate the planning, scheduling and performance of preventive and corrective maintenance on the Interconnection Facilities.

Section 5.4.2.3 of the Boonville IA requires that, if any required National Grid Interconnection Facility or Transmission System upgrades are the result of a load interconnection to the Boonville system, Boonville must “reimburse National Grid for all actual costs and expenses of studying and constructing, operating, and maintaining the Transmission System upgrades to the extent consistent with FERC policy.” The Boonville IA also provides that if upgrades to the National Grid transmission system or National Grid interconnection facility are required as a result of a proposed generator interconnection or increase in generator capacity to the Boonville system, such upgrades will be performed by National Grid “at the expense of either [Boonville] to the extent consistent with FERC policy or the owner of the Generator, consistent with Attachment S to the NYISO OATT.”<sup>7</sup> Accordingly, these cost allocation provisions under the

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<sup>5</sup> Boonville IA, Recitals.

<sup>6</sup> Boonville IA, Sections 1 (definition of “Effective Date”), 12.1.

<sup>7</sup> Boonville IA, Section 5.4.2.

Bonneville IA will be applied consistent with Commission policy or Attachment S to the NYISO OATT if upgrades are required due to a proposed interconnection or increase in generator capacity.

Article VI addresses metering issues and the treatment of losses.

Article VII governs emergency operations. Section 7.1 obligates both Parties to comply with the Emergency State procedures of the NYISO, the Applicable Reliability Councils, Applicable Laws and Regulations, and any emergency procedures agreed to by the NYISO Operating Committee. Section 7.2 establishes procedures for each Party to notify the other in emergency conditions. Although the NYISO is not a party to the Boonville IA, Section 7.4 makes it clear that both National Grid and the NYISO have the authority to take certain actions during emergency conditions. Section 7.5, similarly, establishes the authority of Boonville to take certain actions during emergency conditions.

Article VIII establishes insurance requirements for both Parties. Article IX governs compliance with laws, including environmental laws. Article X governs invoicing and cost payments under the agreement. Section 10.2.2 provides that Boonville shall be responsible for costs incurred by National Grid for the operation, maintenance, and repair of National Grid interconnection facilities. Any charges assessed by National Grid under the Boonville IA will be just and reasonable because they will be based on National Grid's actual costs.<sup>8</sup>

The remaining provisions of the IA are standard provisions for interconnection agreements reflecting terms and conditions for force majeure, notice, indemnification, amendments, and numerous other matters that the Commission has accepted in many comparable agreements.

### **III. Effective Date**

Section 35.3 of the Commission's regulations allows a utility to file service agreements not more than 30 days after service under the agreements has commenced.<sup>9</sup> The Boonville IA was entered into on January 15, 2015. The Parties have agreed that the IA "shall become effective as of the date first above written (the 'EFFECTIVE DATE'), subject to its approval or acceptance for filing by the FERC (if applicable)."<sup>10</sup> Granting the requested effective date will permit the Boonville IA to become effective as of the

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<sup>8</sup> National Grid has not assessed any charges covered by the Boonville IA prior to the effective date of the agreement. National Grid has collected its actual costs for some engineering review work performed for Boonville under a separate 2012 study agreement. The Commission has clarified that transmission study contracts and charges, while jurisdictional, do not have to be filed with the Commission unless they are the subject of a complaint. *Prior Notice and Filing Requirements Under Part II of the Federal Power Act*, 65 FERC ¶ 61,081 (1993).

<sup>9</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 35.3.

<sup>10</sup> Boonville IA, Section 12.1.

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date agreed upon by the Parties and will not result in prejudice to any Party. For these reasons, the Commission should find that good cause exists to grant an effective date of January 15, 2015.

#### **IV. Documents Enclosed**

In addition to this filing letter, attached are the following documents:

- i. The Boonville IA (Service Agreement No. 2204 under the NYISO OATT), provided in clean format (Attachment A)

#### **V. Communications and Service**

Communications regarding this filing should be addressed to the following individuals, whose names should be entered on the official service list maintained by the Secretary for this proceeding:

Amanda C. Downey  
National Grid USA  
Service Company, Inc.  
40 Sylvan Road  
Waltham, MA 02451  
(781)907-2136  
amanda.downey@nationalgrid.com

Sean Atkins  
Bradley R. Miliauskas  
Alston & Bird LLP  
The Atlantic Building  
950 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
(202) 239-3300  
sean.atkins@alston.com  
bradley.miliauskas@alston.com

William L. Malee  
Director, Transmission Commercial  
National Grid USA  
40 Sylvan Road  
Waltham, MA 02451  
(781) 907-2422  
bill.malee@nationalgrid.com

Copies of this filing have been served on Boonville, the NYISO, and the New York State Public Service Commission.

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**VI. Conclusion**

For the reasons stated herein, National Grid respectfully requests that the Commission accept the Boonville IA effective as of January 15, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Amanda C. Downey

Amanda Downey

Counsel

National Grid USA

Service Company, Inc.

40 Sylvan Road

Waltham, MA 02451

/s/ Sean Atkins

Sean Atkins

Alston & Bird LLP

The Atlantic Building

950 F Street, NW

Washington, DC 20004

*Attorneys for Niagara Mohawk Power  
Corporation d/b/a National Grid*