

## **31.12 Appendix I – Study Agreement for Evaluation of Public Policy Transmission Projects**

## **STUDY AGREEMENT FOR EVALUATION OF PUBLIC POLICY TRANSMISSION PROJECTS**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by and between \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ organized and existing under the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ (“Developer”), and the New York Independent System Operator, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York (“NYISO”). Developer and NYISO each may be referred to as a “Party,” or collectively as the “Parties.”

### **RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, Developer is proposing to develop a Public Policy Transmission Project to satisfy one or more identified Public Policy Transmission Needs (“Transmission Project”);

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Sections 31.4.3.1, 31.4.4.3, and 31.4.4.4 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT, the NYISO has requested that all entities interested in proposing a Transmission Project submit specific solutions to the Public Policy Transmission Need, including: (i) submitting their project information and an application fee for purposes of being evaluated in the NYISO’s Public Policy Transmission Planning Process, and (ii) executing this Agreement and submitting a study deposit for purposes of the NYISO’s evaluation and selection of the more efficient or cost-effective transmission solution to the identified Public Policy Transmission Need(s);

**WHEREAS**, Developer has requested the NYISO to evaluate its Transmission Project for the purpose of selecting the more efficient or cost-effective transmission solution to the identified Public Policy Transmission Need(s);

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Sections 31.4.3.1, 31.4.4.3, and 31.4.4.4 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT, Developer will submit, together with the execution of this Agreement, its project information, application fee, and study deposit for the purpose of the NYISO evaluating its Transmission Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of and subject to the mutual covenants contained herein the Parties agree as follows:

- 1.0 When used in this Agreement, with initial capitalization, the terms specified but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings indicated in Section 31.1.1 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT, or if not defined therein, in the ISO OATT.
- 2.0 Developer elects, and the NYISO shall cause to be performed, an evaluation of the Transmission Project in accordance with Sections 31.4.7, 31.4.8, 31.4.9, 31.4.10, and 31.4.11 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT, along with any required additional evaluation

or re-evaluation of the Transmission Project, for the purpose of the NYISO's selection of the more efficient or cost-effective transmission solution to satisfy the identified Public Policy Transmission Need(s) ("Evaluation"). The terms of Sections 31.4.7, 31.4.8, 31.4.9, 31.4.10, and 31.4.11 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT, as applicable, are hereby incorporated by reference herein. The NYISO will not commence its Evaluation of the Transmission Project prior to determining that: (i) Developer's Transmission Project is viable and sufficient in accordance with Section 31.4.6 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT, and (ii) Developer has provided to the NYISO the required notification to proceed with the Evaluation of the Transmission Project in accordance with Section 31.4.6.6 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT.

- 3.0 Upon the execution of this Agreement, Developer shall provide the NYISO with the project information for its Transmission Project in accordance with Section 31.4.4.3 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT. Developer shall provide the project information required under Section 31.4.5.1 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT.
- 4.0 Upon the execution of this Agreement, Developer shall also provide the NYISO with a deposit of \$100,000 in accordance with Section 31.4.4.4 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT to secure Developer's payment of the NYISO's expenses incurred in performing the Evaluation. The NYISO will not commence its Evaluation of the Transmission Project prior to its receipt of Developer's study deposit. The NYISO shall invoice, and Developer shall pay to the NYISO, the actual costs of the Evaluation in accordance with Section 31.4.4.4 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT. Upon settlement of the final invoice, the NYISO will return to Developer any remaining portion of the study deposit, including any accrued interest, in accordance with Section 31.4.4.4 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT.
- 5.0 The NYISO will use the project information provided by Developer as described in Section 3.0 above as an input for its Evaluation; *provided, however*, that pursuant to Section 31.4.8 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT, the ISO may engage an independent subcontractor consultant to review the reasonableness and comprehensiveness of the project information provided by Developer and may rely on the independent subcontractor consultant's analysis of the project information in performing its Evaluation. The NYISO reserves the right to request additional project information from Developer as may become necessary in accordance with Section 31.4.4.3.5 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT, and Developer shall submit such additional information within 15 days of the NYISO's request as required under Section 31.4.4.3.8 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT. Developer shall meet with the NYISO, as the NYISO deems necessary, to discuss Developer's project information.
- 6.0 The scope of the Evaluation shall be subject to the study purposes and criteria set forth in Attachment Y to the ISO OATT and to the assumptions set forth in Attachment A to this Agreement.

7.0 As part of the NYISO's Evaluation of the Transmission Project and prior to identifying the more efficient or cost-effective transmission solution to meet the Public Policy Transmission Need(s), the NYISO will provide Developer with a summary of its findings regarding the project information submitted by Developer and will meet with Developer to discuss its findings and to address any questions regarding the project information. After completing the required analysis of all of the proposed regulated transmission solutions and identifying the more efficient or cost-effective transmission solution, the NYISO will provide all stakeholders with the results of its analysis, including which regulated transmission solution has been identified as the more efficient or cost-effective transmission solution to the Public Policy Transmission Need(s), in the Public Policy Transmission Planning Report pursuant to Section 31.4.11 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT.

8.0 Miscellaneous.

8.1 Accuracy of Information. Except as Developer may otherwise specify in writing when it provides information to the NYISO under this Agreement, Developer represents and warrants that to the best of its knowledge and belief the information it has provided or subsequently provides to the NYISO is and shall be accurate and complete as of the date the information is provided. Developer shall promptly provide the NYISO with any additional information needed to update information previously provided.

8.2 Disclaimer of Warranty. In performing the Evaluation, the NYISO and any subcontractor consultants engaged by the NYISO will have to rely on information provided by Developer, and possibly by third parties, and may not have control over the accuracy of such information. Accordingly, neither the NYISO nor any subcontractor consultant engaged by the NYISO makes any warranties, express or implied, whether arising by operation of law, course of performance or dealing, custom, usage in the trade or profession, or otherwise, including without limitation implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, with regard to the accuracy, content, or conclusions of the Evaluation performed pursuant to this Agreement and the ISO OATT. Developer acknowledges that it has not relied on any representations or warranties by the NYISO or its subcontractor consultants not specifically set forth herein and that no such representations or warranties have formed the basis of its bargain hereunder.

8.3 Limitation of Liability. The NYISO or any subcontractor consultants engaged by the NYISO shall not be liable for direct damages, including money damages or other compensation, for actions or omissions by the

NYISO or a subcontractor consultant in performing its obligations under this Agreement, except to the extent such act or omission by the NYISO or a subcontractor consultant is found to result from its gross negligence or willful misconduct. In no event shall either Party or its subcontractor consultants be liable for indirect, special, incidental, punitive, or consequential damages of any kind including loss of profits, arising under or in connection with this Agreement and the ISO OATT or any reliance on the Evaluation by any Party or third parties, even if one or more of the Parties or its subcontractor consultants have been advised of the possibility of such damages. Nor shall either Party or its subcontractor consultants be liable for any delay in delivery or for the non-performance or delay in performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

- 8.4 Third-Party Beneficiaries. Without limitation of Sections 8.2 and 8.3 of this Agreement, Developer further agrees that subcontractor consultants hired by NYISO to conduct or review, or to assist in the conducting or reviewing, the Evaluation of the Transmission Project shall be deemed third party beneficiaries of these Sections 8.2 and 8.3.
- 8.5 Term and Termination. This Agreement shall be effective from the date hereof and, unless earlier terminated in accordance with this Section 8.5, shall continue in effect until completion of the Evaluation, which shall be the later of: (i) the date on which the NYISO Board of Directors' approval of the Public Policy Transmission Planning Process report for the planning cycle is final and not the subject of dispute resolution or a challenge before a court or regulatory body, and (ii) the date on which the New York State Public Service Commission issues the Article VII certification for a regulated transmission solution that satisfies the identified Public Policy Transmission Need(s). Developer or NYISO may end the Evaluation and terminate this Agreement upon: (i) the withdrawal by Developer of its Transmission Project, including its failure to provide the required notification to proceed under Section 31.4.6.6 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT; (ii) the rejection by the NYISO of the Transmission Project from further consideration during the planning cycle in accordance with the ISO OATT; or (iii) any changes by the New York State Public Service Commission to the identified Public Policy Transmission Need(s), including withdrawal of the Public Policy Transmission Need(s), that eliminate the need for the Transmission Project.

- 8.6 **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without regard to any choice of laws provisions.
- 8.7 **Severability.** In the event that any part of this Agreement is deemed as a matter of law to be unenforceable or null and void, such unenforceable or void part shall be deemed severable from this Agreement and the Agreement shall continue in full force and effect as if each part was not contained herein.
- 8.8 **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, and each counterpart shall have the same force and effect as the original instrument. A signed copy of this Agreement delivered by facsimile, e-mail or other means of electronic transmission shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy of this Agreement.
- 8.9 **Amendment.** No amendment, modification or waiver of any term hereof shall be effective unless set forth in writing signed by the Parties hereto.
- 8.10 **Survival.** All warranties, limitations of liability and confidentiality provisions provided herein and the payment obligations provided under Section 4.0 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.
- 8.11 **Independent Contractor.** NYISO shall at all times be deemed to be an independent contractor for purposes of this Agreement and none of its employees or the employees of its subcontractors shall be considered to be employees of Developer as a result of this Agreement.
- 8.12 **No Implied Waivers.** The failure of a Party to insist upon or enforce strict performance of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment to any extent of such party's right to insist or rely on any such provision, rights and remedies in that or any other instances; rather, the same shall be and remain in full force and effect.
- 8.13 **Successors and Assigns.** This Agreement, and each and every term and condition hereof, shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.
- 8.14 **Confidentiality.** NYISO shall maintain the project information submitted by Developer under this Agreement in accordance with the requirements

set forth in Sections 31.4.4.3.10, 31.4.4.3.11, and 31.4.15 of Attachment Y to the ISO OATT.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be duly executed by their duly authorized officers or agents and to be effective from the day and year first above written.

**NYISO**

**[Insert name of Developer]**

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_