Acceptable Alternate Form of Guaranty

Form of Guaranty

THIS GUARANTY AGREEMENT (this “Guaranty”) is made and entered into as of this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ corporation (the “Guarantor”) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ corporation (the “Additional Guarantor”), both with an address at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, in favor of [Utility] (the “Creditor”), with an address at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, in consideration of the [Utility] Maryland Full Requirements Service Agreement(s) (the “FSA(s)”) between [Utility] and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the “Supplier”) entered into as of this date or any date in the future \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged.

Whereas, Supplier is a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Guarantor and the Additional Guarantor, the Guarantor and the Additional Guarantor will therefore benefit by Supplier entering into the FSA with Creditor and the Guarantor and the Additional Guarantor desire Creditor to enter into the FSA with Supplier and to extend credit to Supplier thereunder. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings given to them in the FSA.

1. Guaranty of Obligations.

(a) The Guarantor hereby irrevocably and unconditionally guarantees, with effect from date hereof, the prompt and complete payment when due of all of Supplier’s payment obligations under the FSA (to the extent such payment obligations exceed the amount of any Performance Assurance provided to the Creditor by Supplier as defined in and in accordance with the FSA), whether on scheduled payment dates, when due upon demand, upon declaration of termination or otherwise, in accordance with the terms of the FSA and giving effect to any applicable grace period, and, provided only that the Creditor is the prevailing party in any judicial suit, action or proceeding arising out of, resulting from, or in any way relating to this Guaranty, or if by mutual agreement by Guarantor and Creditor, all reasonable out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred by Creditor in the enforcement of the Guarantor’s obligations or collection under this Guaranty, including reasonable attorney’s fees and expenses (collectively, the “Obligations”). [Optional provision: Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the liability of the Guarantor under this Guaranty and Creditor’s right of recovery hereunder for all Obligations is limited to a total aggregate amount of $\_\_\_\_ (“Guaranty Amount”), where Guaranty Amount shall be no less than Five Hundred Thousand US Dollars ($500,000).

(b) The limitations on liabilities of the Supplier set forth in Article 10 of the FSA shall also apply to the liabilities of the Guarantor hereunder.

1. Nature of Guaranty; Waivers.

(a) This is a guaranty of payment and not of collection and the Creditor shall not be required, as a condition of the Guarantor’s liability, to pursue any rights which may be available to it with respect to any other person who may be liable for the payment of the Obligations. This is not a performance guaranty and the Guarantor is not obligated to provide power under the FSA or this Guaranty.

1. This Guaranty is an absolute, unconditional, irrevocable (subject to the provisions of Section 12 of this Guaranty) and continuing guaranty and will remain in full force and effect until all of the Obligations have been indefeasibly paid in full, or until the FSA has been terminated, whichever comes later. This Guaranty will not be affected by any surrender, exchange, acceptance, compromise or release by the Creditor of any other party, or any other guaranty or any security held by it for any of the Obligations, by any failure of the Creditor to take any steps to perfect or maintain its lien or security interest in or to preserve its rights to any security or other collateral for any of the Obligations or any guaranty, or by any irregularity, unenforceability or invalidity of any of the Obligations (other than any irregularity, unenforceability or invalidity of any of the obligations under the FSA resulting from the conduct of the Creditor) or any part thereof.
2. Except as to any claims, defenses, rights of set-off or to reductions of Supplier in respect of its obligations under the FSA, (all of which are expressly reserved under this Guaranty), the Guarantor’s obligations hereunder shall not be affected, modified or impaired by any counterclaim, set-off, deduction or defense based upon any claim the Guarantor may have against Supplier or the Creditor, including: (i) any change in the corporate existence (including its charter or other governing agreement, laws, rules, regulations or powers), structure or ownership of Supplier or the Guarantor; or (ii) any insolvency, bankruptcy, reorganization or other similar proceeding affecting Supplier or its assets; or (iii) the invalidity or unenforceability in whole or in part of the FSA; or (iv) any provision of applicable law or regulations purporting to prohibit payment by Supplier of amounts to be paid by it under the FSA (other than any law or regulation that eliminates or nullifies the obligations under the FSA).

(d) Guarantor waives notice of acceptance of this Guaranty, diligence, presentment, notice of dishonor and protest and any requirement that at any time any person exhaust any right to take any action against Supplier or their assets or any other guarantor or person, provided, however, that any failure of Creditor to give notice will not discharge, alter or diminish in any way Guarantor’s obligations under this Guaranty. The Guarantor waives all defenses based on suretyship or impairment of collateral or any other defenses that would constitute a legal or equitable discharge of Guarantor’s obligations, except any claims or defenses of Supplier in respect of its obligations under the FSA.

(e) The Creditor at any time and from time to time, without notice to or the consent of the Guarantor, and without impairing or releasing, discharging or modifying the Guarantor’s liabilities hereunder, may (i) to the extent permitted by the FSA, change the manner, place, time or terms of payment or performance of, or other terms relating to, any of the Obligations; (ii) to the extent permitted by the FSA, renew, substitute, modify, amend or alter, or grant consents or waivers relating to any of the Obligations, or any other guaranties for any Obligations; (iii) settle, compromise or deal with any other person, including Supplier , with respect to any Obligations in such manner as the Creditor deems appropriate in its sole discretion; (iv) substitute, exchange or release any guaranty; or (v) take such actions and exercise such remedies hereunder as Creditor deems appropriate.

1. Representations and Warranties. The Guarantor hereby represents and warrants that:

(a) it is a [limited liability company, corporation, limited partnership, general partnership] duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its [formation, organization, incorporation] and has the [corporate power] [power] and authority to conduct the business in which it is currently engaged and enter into and perform its obligations under this Guaranty;

(b) it has the [corporate power] [power] and authority and the legal right to execute and deliver, and to perform its obligations under, this Guaranty, and has taken all necessary [corporate action] [action] to authorize its execution, delivery and performance of this Guaranty;

(c) this Guaranty constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation of the Guarantor enforceable in accordance with its terms, except as affected by bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent conveyance, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws relating to or affecting the enforcement of Creditor’s rights generally, general equitable principles and an implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing;

(d) the execution, delivery and performance of this Guaranty will not violate any provision of any requirement of law or contractual obligation of the Guarantor (except to the extent that any such violation would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on the Guarantor or this Guaranty);

(e) no consent or authorization of, filing with, or other act by or in respect of, any arbitrator or governmental authority and no consent of any other person (including, without limitation, any stockholder or creditor of the Guarantor) is required in connection with the execution, delivery, performance, validity or enforceability of this Guaranty, other than any which have been obtained or made prior to the date hereof and remain in full force and effect; and

(f) no litigation, investigation or proceeding of or before any arbitrator or governmental authority is pending or, to the knowledge of the Guarantor, threatened by or against the Guarantor that would have a material adverse effect on this Guaranty.

1. Repayments or Recovery from the Creditor.If any demand is made at any time upon the Creditor for the repayment or recovery of any amount received by it in payment or on account of any of the Obligations, including but not limited to upon the bankruptcy, insolvency, dissolution or reorganization of the Supplier and if the Creditor repays all or any part of such amount by reason of any judgment, decree or order of any court or administrative body or by reason of any settlement or compromise of any such demand, the Guarantor (subject to Sections 2 (c) and (d) of this Guaranty) will be and remain liable hereunder for the amount so repaid or recovered to the same extent as if such amount had never been received originally by the Creditor. The provisions of this section will be and remain effective notwithstanding any contrary action which may have been taken by the Guarantor in reliance upon such payment, and any such contrary action so taken will be without prejudice to the Creditor’s rights hereunder and will be deemed to have been conditioned upon such payment having become final and irrevocable.
2. Enforceability of Obligations. No modification, limitation or discharge of the Obligations of Supplier arising out of or by virtue of any bankruptcy, reorganization or similar proceeding for relief of debtors under federal or state law will affect, modify, limit or discharge the Guarantor’s liability in any manner whatsoever and this Guaranty will remain and continue in full force and effect and will be enforceable against the Guarantor to the same extent and with the same force and effect as if any such proceeding had not been instituted. The Guarantor waives all rights and benefits which might accrue to it by reason of any such proceeding and will be liable to the full extent hereunder, irrespective of any modification, limitation or discharge of the liability of Supplier that may result from any such proceeding.
3. Postponement of Subrogation.Only to the extent that, at the relevant time, there are Obligations, or other amounts hereunder, that are then due and payable but unpaid, the Guarantor postpones and subordinates in favor of the Creditor any and all rights which the Guarantor may have to (a) assert any claim against the Supplier based on subrogation rights with respect to payments made by Guarantor hereunder and (b) any realization on any property of the Supplier, including participation in any marshalling of the Supplier’s assets. Upon payment of such due and unpaid Obligations, Creditor agrees that Guarantor shall be subrogated to the rights of Creditor against Supplier to the extent of Guarantor’s payment to Creditor.
4. Notices. All notices, demands, requests, consents, approvals and other communications required or permitted hereunder must be in writing and will be effective upon receipt. Such notices and other communications may be hand-delivered, sent by facsimile transmission with confirmation of delivery and a copy sent by first-class mail, or sent by nationally recognized overnight courier service, to the addresses for the Creditor and the Guarantor set forth below or to such other address as one may give to the other in writing for such purpose:

All communications to Creditor shall be directed to:

Attn:

Phone:

Fax:

With a copy to:

Phone

Fax

or such other address as the Creditor shall from time to time specify to Guarantor.

All communications to Guarantor shall be directed to:

Attn:

Phone:

Fax:

or such other address as the Guarantor shall from time to time specify to Creditor.

1. Preservation of Rights. Except as provided by any applicable statute of limitations, no delay or omission on the Creditor’s part to exercise any right or power arising hereunder will impair any such right or power or be considered a waiver of any such right or power, nor will the Creditor’s action or inaction impair any such right or power. The Creditor’s rights and remedies hereunder are cumulative and not exclusive of any other rights or remedies which the Creditor may have under other agreements with the Guarantor, at law or in equity.
2. Illegality. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Guaranty should be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions contained herein shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.
3. Amendments. No modification, amendment or waiver of any provision of this Guaranty nor consent to any departure by the Guarantor therefrom, will be effective unless made in a writing signed by the Creditor, and then such waiver or consent shall be effective only in the specific instance and for the purpose for which given. No notice to or demand on the Guarantor in any case will entitle the Guarantor to any other or further notice or demand in the same, similar or other circumstance.
4. Entire Agreement. This Guaranty (including the documents and instruments referred to herein) constitutes the entire agreement and supersedes all other prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, between the Guarantor and the Creditor with respect to the subject matter hereof.
5. Successors and Assigns. This Guaranty will be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Guarantor and the Creditor and their respective successors and permitted assigns. Neither party may assign this Guaranty in whole or in part without the other’s prior written consent, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, except that Creditor may at any time assign this Guaranty without Guarantor’s consent, in the same manner, on the same terms and to the same persons as Creditor assigns the FSA in accordance with Section 16.7(b) of the FSA, and except that this Section 12 shall not limit the Guarantor’s right to assign this Guaranty, along with substantially all of the Guarantor’s assets and business to a successor entity or Affiliate that assumes all obligations thereunder and (i) where the successor Guarantor’s Lowest Credit Rating is equal to or greater than the Guarantor’s Lowest Credit Rating or where the successor Guarantor’s Lowest Credit Rating is equal to or greater than BBB, as rated by S&P or Fitch, or Baa2, as rated by Moody’s, and (ii) the Supplier is in compliance with Article 14 of the FSA. The “Lowest Credit Rating” shall mean the lowest of the senior unsecured long-term debt ratings determined by Moody’s Investor Services, Inc. (or its successor) (“Moody’s”), the Standard & Poor’s Rating Group, a division of McGraw-Hill, Inc., (or its successor) (“S&P”), or Fitch Investor Service, Inc. (or its successor) (“Fitch”) immediately before such transfer and assumption. Upon any such delegation and assumption of obligations by a successor Guarantor, the Guarantor shall be relieved of and fully discharged from all of its obligations hereunder, whether such obligations arose before or after the date of such delegation and assumption.
6. Interpretation. In this Guaranty, unless the Creditor and the Guarantor otherwise agree in writing, the singular includes the plural and the plural the singular; references to statutes are to be construed as including all statutory provisions consolidating, amending or replacing the statute referred to; the word “or” shall be deemed to include “and/or”, the words “including”, “includes” and “include” shall be deemed to be followed by the words “without limitation”; and references to sections or exhibits are to those of this Guaranty unless otherwise indicated. Section headings in this Guaranty are included for convenience of reference only and shall not constitute a part of this Guaranty for any other purpose.
7. Governing Law.

(a) This Guaranty has been delivered to and accepted by the Creditor. THIS GUARANTY WILL BE INTERPRETED AND THE RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF THE CREDITOR AND THE GUARANTOR DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, EXCLUDING ITS CONFLICT OF LAWS RULES.

(b) The Guarantor hereby irrevocably consents to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of any federal court in the State of Maryland, but in the event that the Guarantor and the Creditor determine in good faith that jurisdiction does not lay with such court or that such court refuses to exercise jurisdiction or venue over the Guarantor and the Creditor or any claims made pursuant to this Guaranty, then the Guarantor and the Creditor agree to submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Maryland state courts; provided that nothing contained in this Guaranty will prevent the Creditor from bringing any action, enforcing any award or judgment or exercising any rights against the Guarantor individually, against any security or against any property of the Guarantor within any other county, state or other foreign or domestic jurisdiction. The Guarantor acknowledges and agrees that the venue provided above is the most convenient forum for both the Creditor and the Guarantor. The Guarantor waives any objection to venue and any objection based on a more convenient forum in any action instituted under this Guaranty.

1. WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL. THE GUARANTOR AND CREDITOR IRREVOCABLY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY ACTION, PROCEEDING OR CLAIM OF ANY NATURE RELATING TO THIS GUARANTY, ANY DOCUMENTS EXECUTED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS GUARANTY OR ANY TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED IN ANY OF SUCH DOCUMENTS. THE GUARANTOR AND CREDITOR ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE FOREGOING WAIVER IS KNOWING AND VOLUNTARY.
2. Term. This Guaranty shall survive termination of the FSA and remain in full force and effect until all amounts due hereunder, including all of the Obligations, have been paid or performed in full.
3. Stay of Acceleration Ineffective with Respect to Guarantor. If acceleration of the time for payment of any amount payable by Supplier under the FSA is stayed upon the insolvency, bankruptcy or reorganization of Supplier, all such amounts otherwise subject to acceleration or required to be paid upon an early termination pursuant to the terms of the FSA shall nonetheless be payable by the Guarantor hereunder on written demand by Creditor.
4. Additional Guarantor joins this Guaranty and agrees to be jointly and severally liable with Guarantor for each and all of the obligations and responsibilities of the Guarantor pursuant to this Guaranty subject to such limitations set forth herein together with the rights afforded to the Guarantor; provided, however that Additional Guarantor shall not be obligated to comply with Creditor’s credit requirements, including without limitation, the requirement to have any Credit Rating. Guarantor agrees and acknowledges that Additional Guarantor has assumed the obligations described in this Paragraph 18 and that such assumption in no way limits or restricts Guarantor's obligations hereunder or Creditor's rights to enforce said obligations.

The Guarantor and Additional Guarantor acknowledge that they have read and understood all the provisions of this Guaranty, and have been advised by counsel as necessary or appropriate.

[Guarantor]

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

Name:

Title:

By:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Name:        
Title:

[Additional Guarantor]

By:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Name:        
Title:

By:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Name:        
Title: