Public Service Commission State of New York x-----x : Joint Petition of Fortis Inc., FortisUS : Inc., Cascade Acquisition Sub Inc., CH : Energy Group, Inc., and Central Hudson : Case 12-M-0192 Gas & Electric Corporation for Approval of the Acquisition of CH Energy Group, : Inc. by Fortis Inc. and Related : Transactions. : х----х

Joint Proposal for Commission Approval of the Acquisition of CH Energy Group, Inc. by Fortis Inc. and Related Transactions

Dated: January 25, 2013

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Public Service Commission State of New York

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> Joint Proposal for Commission Approval of the Acquisition of CH Energy Group, Inc. by Fortis Inc. and Related Transactions

I. INTRODUCTION

This proposal ("Joint Proposal") for the complete resolution of the Joint Petition in this proceeding is submitted jointly to the New York State Public Service Commission ("Commission") by Cascade Acquisition Sub Inc. ("Cascade"), CH Energy Group, Inc. ("CHEG"), Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation ("Central Hudson"), Department of Public Service Staff ("Staff"), Department of State Utility Intervention Unit ("UIU"), Dutchess County New York, Fortis Inc. ("Fortis"), FortisUS Inc. ("FortisUS"), Multiple Intervenors, Orange County New York, and Ulster County New York. The supporting parties are referred to herein collectively as the "Signatories."

II. PROCEDURAL SUMMARY

Subsequent to the April 20, 2012 filing of the Joint Petition, direct testimony and exhibits, formal proceedings have

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included an on-the-record technical conference, two administrative conferences, scheduling and procedural rulings by the Presiding Administrative Law Judges, and extensive discovery. Twelve parties, including Staff, have been admitted. On October 12, 2012, in accordance with the procedural schedule, eight parties filed their initial positions. Staff filed corrected testimony on November 5, 2012. Petitioners submitted their reply comments and rebuttal testimony and Staff filed their rebuttal testimony on November 27, 2012. Staff also filed sur-rebuttal testimony on December 4, 2012. Three parties filed their lists of Disputed Issues of Material Fact on December 4, 2012.

Pursuant to a Notice of Potential Settlement filed by Petitioners on December 12, 2012, a series of settlement discussions commenced on December 17, 2012 and continued on December 18, 19 and 20 and January 2,3,4,7,8 and 11, 2013. Following these discussions, drafts of this Joint Proposal and the Signatories' comments thereon were exchanged, and this Joint Proposal was executed by the Signatories.

III. APPROVAL OF TRANSACTION

The Signatories recommend that the Commission approve the indirect transfer to Fortis of the ownership of Central Hudson through the acquisition and related transactions described in

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the Joint Petition, subject to the terms described herein.¹ The Signatories have concluded that these terms establish that the upstream transfer of the equity interests in Central Hudson is "in the public interest" pursuant to Public Service Law ("PSL") Section 70, and should be approved.

IV. TERMS OF COMMISSION APPROVAL

- A. Corporate Structure and Financial Protections
 - 1) Goodwill and Acquisition Cost Conditions
 - a) Cascade, CHEG, Central Hudson, Fortis and FortisUS (referred to collectively herein as "Petitioners") agree that the Goodwill and transaction costs of this acquisition will be excluded from the rate base, expenses, and capitalization in the determination of rates and earned returns of Central Hudson for New York State regulatory accounting and reporting purposes.
 - b) If, at any time after the closing of this acquisition, as a result of any impairment analysis by Fortis, FortisUS, CHEG or Central Hudson, either Fortis or FortisUS makes a book entry reflecting

Pursuant to the February 20, 2012 Agreement and Plan of Merger, the acquisition will be accomplished by the merger of Cascade with and into CHEG, with CHEG as the surviving corporation that will be wholly-owned by Fortis. Central Hudson and its sister unregulated affiliates (Griffith Energy Services, Inc. and Central Hudson Enterprises Corporation) will continue to be wholly-owned subsidiaries of CHEG and, therefore, indirect, wholly-owned subsidiaries of Fortis.

impairment of the Goodwill from this acquisition, Central Hudson must submit the impairment analysis to the Commission within five business days after the entry has been made.

- c) To the extent permissible under U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("U.S. GAAP"), no goodwill or transaction costs associated with this acquisition will be reflected on the books maintained by Central Hudson after the closing of the acquisition of CHEG by FortisUS and Fortis. Should changes in U.S. GAAP require that the goodwill associated with the acquisition be "pushed down" and therefore reflected in the accounts of Central Hudson, the goodwill will not be reflected in the regulated accounts of Central Hudson for purposes of determining rate base, setting rates, establishing capital structure or other regulatory accounting and reporting purposes.
- d) Central Hudson will provide a final schedule of the external costs to achieve the merger following consummation of the transaction as a demonstration that there will be no recovery requested in Central Hudson rates, or recognition in the determination of rate base of any legal and financial advisory fees, [4]

or other external costs associated with Fortis' acquisition of CHEG, and indirectly, Central Hudson.

- 2) Credit Quality and Dividend Restriction Conditions
 - a) After the closing of this transaction, copies of all presentations made to credit rating agencies by Central Hudson, Fortis or any Fortis affiliate in the line between Central Hudson and Fortis that present or discuss the finances and credit of Central Hudson or CHEG, will be provided to Staff within ten business days of the presentation on a continuing basis. These presentations will be subject to the confidentiality and privilege provisions of sections VI.B 32 and 33 of the Restructuring Settlement Agreement ("RSA") approved by the Commission in Case 96-E-0909, In the Matter of Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation's Plans for Electric Rate/Restructuring Pursuant to Opinion No. 96-12, Order Adopting Terms of Settlement Subject to Modifications and Conditions (issued on February 19, 1998).
 - b) To the extent not already in place, Fortis and Central Hudson must register with at least two major nationally and internationally recognized bond rating agencies, such as Dominion Bond Rating

Services ("DBRS"), Fitch Ratings ("Fitch"), Moody's Investor Services ("Moody's") and Standard & Poor's ("S&P"). Consistent with section VI.B 20 of the RSA, Central Hudson will continue to maintain separate debt instruments and its own corporate and debt credit ratings with at least two of these nationally recognized credit rating agencies. Neither Fortis nor Central Hudson will enter into any credit or debt instrument containing cross default provisions that would affect Central Hudson.

c) Fortis and Central Hudson will continue to support the objective of maintaining an "A" credit rating for Central Hudson, unless and until the Commission modifies its financial integrity policies. In so doing, Fortis and Central Hudson will maintain the equity capitalization ratio of Central Hudson at the level used by the Commission in establishing Central Hudson's rates as follows. At each month end, Central Hudson and Fortis agree to maintain a minimum common equity ratio ("MER") (measured using a trailing 13-month average) in relation to the equity ratio used to set rates. The MER is defined as no less than 200 basis points below the equity ratio used to set rates. In the event that the MER is not met, no dividends are payable until such time the MER is restored.

- d) In the event the Commission establishes rates for Central Hudson on a basis that does not recognize Central Hudson's actual equity capitalization, or deems or imputes for ratemaking purposes an equity capitalization below Central Hudson's actual equity capitalization, Central Hudson shall be free to dividend its excess equity capitalization to match that recognized or deemed by the Commission in establishing Central Hudson's rates.
- e) If, as a direct result of a downgrade of Fortis Inc.'s debt within three years following the closing of this transaction, Central Hudson is downgraded to either S&P's or Fitch's BBB category (BBB+ or lower), or the equivalent for Moody's (Baal or lower) or DBRS's (BBB(high) or lower), and Central Hudson incurs increased costs of debt, the incremental cost of debt incurred by Central Hudson in comparison to the cost of debt which would otherwise have been incurred by Central Hudson under its pre-downgrade credit rating will not be reflected in Central Hudson's cost of capital or the

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determination of Central Hudson's rates in subsequent rate cases.

If such a downgrade occurs in the time discussed and debt is issued, then in subsequent rate cases Mergent Bond Record data (or the equivalent, if Mergent data is not available) for the relevant month(s) of issue will be used to quantify the adjustment needed to avoid reflecting the higher interest rate expense. For each one-notch downgrade to Central Hudson, one-third of the difference between A and Baa Public Utility Bond yield averages will be used to adjust the interest rate allowed in rate cases. The differential will only apply for each credit rating agency which downgrades Central Hudson's debt due to a Fortis downgrade. For instance, if Central Hudson is rated by two credit rating agencies and only one downgrades them due to a Fortis downgrade, then only 50% of the one-notch yield difference per Mergent Bond Record data will be used to calculate the interest rate adjustment in subsequent rate cases.

f) Central Hudson will continue to comply with any and all sections of the RSA with respect to restrictions

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on the payment of common dividends related to credit ratings.

- g) Central Hudson will not lend to, guarantee or financially support Fortis or any of its affiliates, or any subsidiary or other joint venture of Central Hudson, except as is consistent with section VI.B 23 of the RSA or permitted by the Money Pooling Conditions referred to below. Furthermore, Central Hudson will not engage in, provide financial support to or guarantee any non-regulated businesses, except as authorized in the RSA or by Commission order.
- h) Central Hudson shall maintain banking, committed credit facilities and cash management arrangements which are separate from other affiliates.
- i) In addition to the special class of preferred stock referred to in item 4, below, Central Hudson's financing authorization in Case 12-M-0172, Order Authorizing Issuance of Securities, issued and effective September 14, 2012 ("Financing Order") is amended to authorize Central Hudson to use private financing as an alternative to public debt offerings. This authorization supersedes Ordering Clause 5 in the Financing Order. Private financings are subject to the conditions and requirements

described in the other Ordering Clauses in the Financing Order and, Central Hudson's proposal to address Ordering Clause 6 in the Financing Order, as was filed with the Commission on November 9, 2012, is accepted and approved by the Commission's adoption of this Joint Proposal.

3) Money Pooling Conditions

- a) Central Hudson may participate in a money pool only if all other participants, with the exception of Fortis and FortisUS, are regulated utilities operating within the United States, in which case Central Hudson may participate as either a borrower or a lender. Fortis and FortisUS may participate only as lenders in money pools involving Central Hudson. Central Hudson may not participate in any money pool in which any participant directly or indirectly loans or transfers funds to Fortis or FortisUS.
- b) Neither Fortis nor FortisUS, nor any of their affiliates may, at closing of the approved acquisition of Central Hudson, have any cross default provision that affects Central Hudson in any manner. Neither Fortis nor FortisUS, nor any of their affiliates may enter into any cross default [10]

provision following the closing that affects Central Hudson in any manner. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent that any cross default provision that might affect Central Hudson already exists, Fortis and FortisUS must use their best efforts to eliminate that cross default provision within six months after closing. If any cross default provision remains in effect at the end of that period, Fortis and FortisUS must obtain indemnification from an investment grade entity, at a cost not borne by Central Hudson's ratepayers, which fully protects Central Hudson from the effects of any cross default provision.

4) Special Class of Preferred Stock Conditions

a) Central Hudson must modify its corporate by-laws as necessary to establish a voting right in order to prevent a bankruptcy, liquidation, receivership, or similar proceedings ("bankruptcy") of Central Hudson from being caused by a bankruptcy of Fortis, FortisUS, or any other affiliate. The Commission's approval of this Joint Proposal will represent all Commission authorization necessary for Central Hudson to establish a class of preferred stock having one share (the "golden share"), subordinate [11] to any existing preferred stock, and to issue that share of stock to a party who shall protect the interests of New York and be independent of the parent company and its subsidiaries. Such share of stock shall have voting rights only with respect to Central Hudson's right to commence any voluntary bankruptcy without the consent of the holder of that share of stock. Central Hudson shall notify the Commission of the identity and qualifications of the party to whom the share is issued and the Commission may, to the extent that such party is not reasonably qualified to hold such share in the Commission's opinion, require that the share be reissued to a different party within three months of receipt of such notification. If Central Hudson has failed to propose a shareholder that is approved by the Commission within six months after the closing of the acquisition, the Commission will appoint a shareholder of its own selection. In the event that Central Hudson is unable to meet this condition despite good faith efforts to do so, it must petition for relief from this condition, explaining why the condition is impossible to meet and how it proposes to meet an underlying requirement that a [12]

bankruptcy involving Fortis, FortisUS, or any other affiliate does not result in its voluntary inclusion in such a bankruptcy.

b) In any rate proceeding in which use of Central Hudson's capital structure is requested, Central Hudson will submit the most current written evaluations from at least two rating agencies addressing Central Hudson's credit profile. These credit reports shall be relied upon to the extent that they provide written evidence that supports the evaluation of Central Hudson and the treatment of Central Hudson's capital structure by the Commission primarily as a separate company, without material adjustments to the rating based on risks related to the capital structure and ratings of its ultimate parent. This evidence, together with the golden share would provide sufficient proof that the use of Central Hudson's capital structure should be used for rate making purposes. In the event written evaluations from at least two rating agencies do not provide such evidence or are not available, Central Hudson shall have the opportunity to meet its burden of proof through other means. Central Hudson's capital structure will continue to be reviewed in [13]

relation to the level of risk of Central Hudson at that time.

5) Financial Transparency and Reporting Conditions

a) Central Hudson must continue to use the standards of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles applicable to publicly-traded entities ("Public GAAP," "U.S. GAAP," or simply "GAAP") for its financial accounting and financial reports. Central Hudson will, for purposes of its financial accounting and financial reporting, continue to use the generally accepted accounting principles which include, but are not limited to the determinations by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"), or any successor entity, for U.S. publicly accountable enterprises ("U.S. GAAP" or simply "GAAP"). Any future changes in U.S. GAAP, including any decision to replace U.S. GAAP with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), will be applied by Central Hudson. In the event of future changes to accounting standards, recovery by Central Hudson for the incremental costs incurred in making such changes will be addressed in a future rate proceeding.

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- b) Central Hudson must continue to satisfy all Commission reporting requirements that currently apply to it; provided however, that nothing in this provision is intended to preclude Central Hudson from requesting relief from any such reporting provision and, further, that nothing herein is intended to require Central Hudson to continue to make reports in the future that utilities have been generally or generically excused by the Commission from making.
- c) After the closing of this acquisition, Central Hudson shall continue to comply with the provisions of sections 302 through 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act ("SOX") as if Central Hudson were still bound directly by the provisions of SOX, with the understanding that no filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission will be required. Specifically, Central Hudson's periodic statutory financial reports must continue to include certifications provided by its officers concerning compliance with SOX requirements, including certifications on internal controls, as if still bound by the provisions of SOX.

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- d) Central Hudson shall remain subject to annual attestation audits by independent auditors with respect to its financial statements and internal controls over financial reporting.
- e) Subject to the confidentiality and privilege provisions of sections VI.B 32 and 33 of the RSA, Fortis and Central Hudson will provide Staff access pursuant to section VI.B 30 of the RSA to the books and records and Standards Pertaining To Transactions, Conflicts Of Interest, Cost Allocations And Sharing Of Information Between Central Hudson Gas And Electric Corporation And Affiliates ("Standards"), including, but not limited to, tax returns, of Fortis and FortisUS to the extent necessary to determine whether the rates and charges of Central Hudson are just and reasonable and provide Staff the opportunity to ensure that costs are allocated equitably among affiliates in accordance with the RSA, Standards and Central Hudson code of conduct and that intercompany transactions involving Central Hudson are priced reasonably in accordance with the RSA, Standards and Central Hudson code of conduct. Subject to the confidentiality and privilege provisions of sections [16]

VI.B 32 and 33 of the RSA, that access must include, but not be limited to, all information supporting the underlying costs and the basis for any factor that determines the allocation of those costs.

f) Commencing for the year in which the closing takes place, Central Hudson must file annually with the Commission Fortis financial statements, including balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements for Fortis, Inc. and its major regulated and unregulated energy company subsidiaries in the United States. U.S. business entities with annual revenues less than ten percent of total Fortis revenues may be aggregated, provided that each entity included is fully identified. Aggregated U.S. business entities shall be identified as either regulated or unregulated. To satisfy this filing requirement, Fortis Inc.'s U.S. GAAP Canadian dollar denominated quarterly and annual Financial Reports, including Management Discussion and Analysis, which have been filed publically with Canadian securities regulators, will be filed by Central Hudson with the Commission. Additionally, Central Hudson will provide to the Commission, to the extent available from a recognized financial reporting information [17]

service such as SNL Financial or Bloomberg, Fortis Inc.'s "as reported" quarterly and annual Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows in U.S. dollars with the underlying currency translation assumptions.

g) All information required by the financial transparency and reporting requirements in subparagraphs (a) through (f) above must be provided in English and in U.S. dollars, with the exception of Financial Reports and Management Discussion and Analysis referred to in subparagraph (f), and books and records and Canadian tax returns that statutorily require Canadian dollar reporting. In such cases, foreign exchange for U.S. dollar translation will be provided as described in subparagraphs (a) through (f) above and, shall be publicly available subject to the confidentiality and privilege provisions of sections VI.B 32 and 33 of the RSA.

6) Affiliate Transactions, Cost Allocations, and Code of Conduct

a) Fortis shall be subject to the rules, practices, and procedures in the RSA, Standards, and code of

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conduct governing relations among CHEG and Central Hudson in the same manner as they apply to CHEG.

- b) Central Hudson will not enter into transactions with affiliates that are not in compliance with the RSA guidelines regarding affiliate transactions, including the updated Standards set forth in Attachment I. Central Hudson will also not enter into transactions with affiliates on terms less favorable to Central Hudson than specified in the RSA, including the updated Standards.
- c) Central Hudson shall provide 180 days notice to the Commission prior to the commencement of any planned material (i.e., individually or collectively exceeding greater than 5% of Central Hudson net income on an after tax basis) shared services initiatives, and prior to establishment of a services organization that would provide material (i.e., individually or collectively exceeding greater than 5% of Central Hudson net income on an after tax basis) services to Central Hudson. Further, any such noticed shared service initiative would require Commission approval.
- d) At or prior to the time of Central Hudson's next base rate filing it will consolidate the RSA, [19]

Standards and codes of conduct into one comprehensive document and file the consolidated document with the Commission. The intention of this requirement is to organize the provisions into an integrated document without altering the effect and content of the provisions.

7) Follow-On Merger Savings

a) In the event that Fortis completes any additional mergers or acquisitions within the United States before the Commission adopts an order approving new rates for Central Hudson, Fortis must share the follow-on merger savings that are reasonably applicable to Central Hudson and its customers between shareholders and ratepayers, on a 50/50 basis, to the extent the portions of such savings realized by Fortis are material (i.e., 5 percent or more of Central Hudson net income on an after-tax basis). Central Hudson must submit, within 90 days of the follow-on merger closing, a comprehensive and detailed proposal to share the follow-on merger savings, to begin on the closing date of the followon merger. In addition, the proposal must include an allocation method for sharing the synergy savings and efficiency gains among corporate entities that [20]

addresses the time period from the receipt of the synergy savings by Central Hudson until the Commission approves new rates. The ratepayer share shall be set aside in a deferral account for future Commission disposition.

8) Corporate Governance and Operational Provisions

a) No later than one year after the closing of Fortis's acquisition of CHEG, Fortis shall appoint a board of directors for Central Hudson, the majority of whom will be independent (as defined in the Standards, see Attachment I), with the majority of such independent directors being resident in the State of New York, with emphasis on selecting candidates who reside, conduct business or work within the Central Hudson service territory. At least one independent director of Central Hudson shall be a resident of the service territory. Except with respect to the initial appointment of the board of directors for Central Hudson within one year following the closing, nothing in this Joint Proposal is intended to restrict the rights of Fortis to take any action before the Commission, or otherwise, regarding the appointment of directors meeting the above residency criteria at any time, as it sees fit.

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- b) Subject to the right of Central Hudson to petition the Commission for approval to relocate its corporate headquarters outside of Central Hudson's service territory, the corporate headquarters of Central Hudson shall remain within Central Hudson's service territory. Complete books and records of Central Hudson shall be maintained at Central Hudson's corporate headquarters.
- c) At least 50% of Central Hudson's officers shall reside within Central Hudson's service territory.
- d) Central Hudson shall be governed, managed and operated in the fashion described in Petitioners' testimony. Specifically, the Signatories agree that:
 - i) The board of directors of Central Hudson will be responsible for management oversight generally, including the approval of annual capital and operating budgets; establishment of dividend policy; and determination of debt and equity requirements. The Central Hudson board of directors will have an audit committee, the majority of whom will also be independent. The responsibility of this committee will include the oversight of the ongoing financial [22]

integrity and effectiveness of internal controls of Central Hudson.

- ii) Central Hudson's local management will continue to make decisions regarding staffing levels and hiring practices; will continue to negotiate future collective bargaining agreements; will continue to be the direct contact and decision making authority in regulatory matters; and, will continue to represent Central Hudson in all future regulatory matters.
- iii) To provide continuity in the management and staffing of Central Hudson, and ensure that the necessary human resources are maintained to continue the delivery of safe, reliable service to customers, the current employees of Central Hudson (union and management) will be retained for a period of two years following the closing under their respective current conditions of employment. Central Hudson reserves the right to take disciplinary and any other actions it determines necessary or appropriate within its existing labor agreement and employee relations practices. Central Hudson also agrees to maintain for two years after the closing the [23]

level of operating employees, as defined in the Standards, that is recognized in rates and to file a report with the Secretary of the Commission within 30 days after the first two anniversary dates of the merger's closing comparing the level of union and management employees on the anniversary to date to the levels on the date upon which the merger closed.

iv) To ensure the continued active corporate and charitable presence of Central Hudson in its service territory, Central Hudson shall maintain its community involvement at not less than current (2011) levels for five years after the closing of the acquisition (2013 through 2017).

B. PERFORMANCE MECHANISMS

1) Customer Service

The following targets and effective dates will apply:

Value	Effective
1.1 - 1.6	7/1/13
85 - 82, etc.	7/1/13
structure per the	
current rate plan	
\$20 paid to	7/1/13
customer for	
missed appt. per	
current rate plan	
	1.1 - 1.6 85 - 82, etc. structure per the current rate plan \$20 paid to customer for missed appt. per

These targets will continue to apply unless and until changed by Commission Order.

2) Negative Revenue Adjustments ("NRAs")

The NRAs shown in the following table have been doubled from those in the current rate plan.² The NRAs in the current rate plan shall be tripled if targets are missed during a dividend restriction and quadrupled if targets are missed for three years within the next five year period.

Customer Satisfaction Index	Negative Revenue Adjustment
85% or higher	None
84% ≤ CSI < 85%	\$475,000
83% ≤ CSI < 84%	\$950,000
82% ≤ CSI < 83%	\$1,425,000
< 82%	\$1,900,000
Total Amount at Risk	\$1,900,000

Central Hudson Service Quality Performance Mechanism

The Commission's Order Establishing Rate Plan, issued June 18, 2010, in Cases 09-E-0588 and 09-G-0589, set forth electric and gas rate plans for Central Hudson for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013.

PSC Annual Complaint Rate	Negative Revenue Adjustment
<1.1	None
1.1	\$950 , 000
1.2	\$1,140,000
1.3	\$1,330,000
1.4	\$1,520,000
1.5	\$1,710,000
1.6 or higher	\$1,900,000
Total Amount at Risk	\$1,900,000

3) Electric Reliability

The electric service annual metrics for System Average Frequency Index (SAIFI) target of 1.45 and Customer Average Duration Index (CAIDI) target of 2.50 continue through 2013.

Electric Reliability Reporting requirements, quarterly meeting requirements, revenue adjustment source, and exclusions are defined in Attachment II.

All Electric Reliability NRAs of the current rate plan shall be doubled. In addition, the NRAs of the current rate plan shall be tripled if targets are missed during a dividend restriction and quadrupled if targets are missed for three years within the next five year period. All electric reliability targets for calendar year 2013 remain in effect until modified by a Commission order in a subsequent Central Hudson electric rate case.

4) Gas Safety Metrics

Emergency Response Time

The gas emergency response time metrics of 75% response within 30 minutes and 90% response within 45 minutes will be continued.

Gas Leak Backlog

The calendar year 2013 leak backlog target is 260 at year-end. The calendar year 2013 repairable leaks backlog target is 20 at year-end.

Damage Prevention

The calendar year 2013 total damages per 1,000 one call tickets target is 2.40. The calendar year 2013 mismarks per 1,000 one call tickets target is 0.50. The calendar year 2013 Company and Company Contractor damages per 1,000 one call tickets target is 0.25.

New Parts 255 and 261 Violation Metric

Central Hudson will incur a negative revenue adjustment for instances of noncompliance (violations) of certain pipeline safety regulations set forth in 16 NYCRR Parts 255 and 261, as identified during Staff's annual field and record audits. Attachment III sets forth a list of identified high risk and other risk pipeline safety regulations pertaining to this metric. Central Hudson will be assessed a negative revenue adjustment for each high risk or other risk violation, up to a combined maximum of 100 basis points per calendar year as follows:

High Risk Violation	Occurrences	Basis Points Per Violation
Calendar Year 2013	1-30	1/4
	31+	1/2
Calendar Year 2014	1-25	1/2
	26+	1

Other Risk Violation	Occurrences	Basis Points Per Violation
Calendar Year 2013	1-30	1/9
	31+	1/3
Calendar Year 2014	1-25	1/9
	26+	1/3

This metric will be effective as of the start of the Commission Order in this case, but will then be measured on calendar years, as identified above. With respect to violations, only documentation or actions performed, or required to be performed, on or after the date of the Commission Order in this case will constitute an occurrence under the metric. At the conclusion of each audit, Staff and Central Hudson will have a compliance meeting where Staff will present its findings to Central Hudson. Central Hudson will have five business days from the date the audit findings are presented to cure any identified document deficiency. Only official Central Hudson records, as defined in Central Hudson's Operating and Maintenance plan, will be considered by Staff as a cure to a document deficiency. Staff will submit its final audit report to the Secretary of the Commission under Case 12-M-0192. If Central Hudson disputes any of Staff's final audit results, Central Hudson may appeal Staff's finding[s] to the Commission. Central Hudson will not incur a negative revenue adjustment on the contested finding until such time as the Commission has issued a final decision on the contested findings. Central Hudson does not waive its right to seek an appeal of any Commission determination regarding a violation under applicable law.

If an alleged high risk or other risk violation set forth in Attachment III is the subject of a separate [29] penalty proceeding by the Commission under PSL 25, that instance will not constitute an occurrence under this performance metric.

Negative Revenue Adjustments

Other than the Parts 255 and 261 metric, all Gas Safety NRAs of the current rate plan shall be doubled. In addition, the NRAs of the current rate plan shall be tripled if targets are missed during a dividend restriction and quadrupled if targets are missed for three years within the next five year period.

Continuation

All gas safety targets for calendar year 2013 remain in effect until modified by a Commission order in a subsequent Central Hudson gas rate case.

5) Infrastructure Enhancement for Leak-prone Pipe

A minimum capital budget of \$7.7 million is established for the replacement of leak-prone pipe over calendar year 2014. The pipe to be removed from service shall be identified and ranked using a riskbased methodology. If actual expenditures fall short of \$7.7 million, Central Hudson will defer for ratepayer benefit the revenue requirement equivalent of the shortfall multiplied by 0.5. Central Hudson shall maintain the minimum pipe replacement level

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beyond 2014 at \$7.7 million, until changed by the Commission.

C. RATE FREEZE PROVISIONS

The Commission's Order Establishing Rate Plan, issued June 18, 2010, in Cases 09-E-0588 and 09-G-0589, set forth electric and gas rate plans for Central Hudson for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013. The July 1, 2013 rate reductions for S.C. 11 gas customers (see Section IX, Part B, and Appendix M, Sheet 4 of 5 of the current rate plan) will go into effect as provided in the current rate plan. In the period between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 (Rate Freeze Period), the provisions of the current rate plan applicable to "rate year 3", except as modified in this Joint Proposal, are continued.

1) <u>Earnings Sharing and Calculations of Earned Rates of</u> <u>Return</u>

The Earnings Sharing Provision in Section VI.D of the current Commission-approved rate plan will be modified as of July 1, 2013, to read:

Actual regulatory earnings in excess of 10.00% and up to 10.50% will be shared equally between ratepayers and shareholders. Actual regulatory earnings in excess of 10.50% will be shared 90/10 (ratepayer/shareholder). These earnings sharing percentages shall be maintained until the effective date of the succeeding Commission rate order. The Company will defer for the future benefit of ratepayers fifty percent of its share of any actual earnings in excess of 10.50% to reduce the deferred debit undercollections of MGP Site Investigation & Remediation Costs, interest costs on variable rate, interest costs on new issuances of long term debt, property tax, and stray voltage expense; provided, however, that such reduction in deferred debit deferrals will be further limited so as not to cause the resulting actual earnings to decrease below a 10.50% return on equity.

In calculating earned rates of return for regulatory purposes, the \$35 million of combined write-offs of deferred regulatory assets and future rate mitigation funds, and the one-time funding of \$5 million for economic development and low income purposes referred to in this Joint Proposal shall be included and not "normalized out" for purposes of determining actual expenses for the rate year in which those benefits are booked by Central Hudson.

2) <u>Distribution and Transmission Right-of-Way Tree</u> Trimming and SIR Costs

At the end of Rate Freeze Period, the actual total expenditures for distribution ROW tree trimming will be compared to \$11.397 million and any under-spending will be deferred as of the end of Rate Freeze Period. Carrying charges at the Pre-Tax Rate of Return ("PTROR") will be applied by the Company to the amount [32] deferred from the end of Rate Freeze Period until the effective date of the succeeding Commission rate order.

At the end of Rate Freeze Period, the actual total expenditures for transmission ROW tree trimming will be compared to \$1.711 million and any under-spending will be deferred as of the end of Rate Freeze Period. Carrying charges at the PTROR will be applied by the Company to the amount deferred from the end of Rate Freeze Period until the effective date of the succeeding Commission rate order. In addition, the deferral for Manufactured Gas Plant ("MGP") Site Investigation and Remediation ("SIR") Costs authorized in Paragraph V.A.1 of the current rate plan will be modified as of July 1, 2013 to apply to all Environmental SIR costs incurred by Central Hudson during the period from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. This modification does not limit Staff or the Commission's authority to review the prudence of any SIR costs.

3) Stray Voltage Testing

Actual Stray Voltage Testing expenditures, excluding mitigation costs, will be compared to \$2.023 million for the twelve months ending June 30, 2014. Any
under-spending as of June 30, 2014, exclusive of expenditures for actual mitigation costs, will be deferred for future return to customers with carrying charges at the PTROR.

Actual mitigation costs in the twelve months ending June 30, 2014 will be compared to \$350,000. The differences between \$350,000 and actual mitigation expenditures will be deferred for future recovery by the Company, or return to customers, with carrying charges at the PTROR.

D. NET PLANT TARGETS

The net plant targets for the twelve month period ending June 30, 2014 of \$919.3 million for Electric and \$252.2 million for Gas, with associated annual depreciation expenses of \$32.7 million and \$9.0 million, respectively, will be established.

The actual average electric and gas net plant balances at the end of the twelve month period ending June 30, 2014 will be calculated using the calculation methods described in Attachment III. The net plant targets shown in Attachment III limit total Common Software construction expenditures, including Legacy Replacements, in the Rate Freeze Period to \$5.0 million.

[34]

Reconciliations

The actual electric and gas net plant will be compared to the electric and gas net plant target for the twelve month period ending June 30, 2014, and the revenue requirement difference (i.e., return and depreciation as described in Attachment IV) will be determined.

Deferral For the Benefit of Ratepayers

If, at the end of the twelve month period ending June 30, 2014, the revenue requirement difference from net plant additions is negative, Central Hudson will defer the revenue requirement impact for the benefit of customers. If, at the end of the twelve month period ending June 30, 2014, the revenue requirement impact is positive, no deferral will be made. Carrying charges at the PTROR will be applied by the Company to the amount deferred from the end of the twelve month period ending June 30, 2014 until addressed by the Commission in a Central Hudson rate order.

E. LOW INCOME

The Signatories agree that the existing funding for low income programs available currently in rates will be supplemented with \$500,000 from the Community Benefit Fund being made available by the Petitioners as a result of this transaction. In addition, the Signatories agree [35] to the following modifications to existing low income programs:

- 1. Central Hudson's current low income program is made up of two components: the Enhanced Powerful Opportunities Program ("EPOP"), which is a targeted program open to selected participants, and a broadbased bill discount program that provides a monthly bill credit to all customers that are Home Energy Assistance Program ("HEAP") recipients.
- The EPOP program and its associated funding will remain unchanged.
- 3. The bill discount program currently provides a monthly bill credit of \$11.00 to all customers who are HEAP recipients. Data provided by Central Hudson reflect that the program has 8,641 participants as of the twelve months ended November 30, 2012, and projected annual spending of \$1,140,612 (\$11 x 12 x 8,641).
- 4. Within 30 days of a Commission order in this proceeding, Central Hudson will modify its current discount program, which provides dual-service customers with one discount, by implementing the following discount levels for single and dual service bill discount program participants:

	Electric only	Gas only	Both Elec. &	
			Gas	
Heating	\$17.50	\$17.50	\$23.00	
Non-heating	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$11.00	

- 5. In order to ensure that no current participant faces a reduction in current benefit levels, any single service non-heating customer currently receiving a bill discount of \$11.00 will continue receiving such benefit at the \$11.00 level, instead of the \$5.50 level specified above.
- The total cost of the bill discount program is expected to be \$1,662,672. Actual expenditures may vary based on HEAP participation levels.
- 7. Central Hudson will waive service reconnection fees, no more than one time per customer until new rates go into effect, for customers participating in either the EPOP or bill discount programs. Funding for reconnection fee waivers is limited to \$50,000 until new rates go into effect. Central Hudson may grant waivers to individual customers more than once during this period, on a case-by-case basis and for good cause shown, provided that the program funding allocation for such waivers is not exceeded. Upon notice to Staff and the UIU, Central Hudson will be

permitted, first, to limit the waiver to (50) percent of the total reconnection fee, if the cost of waived reconnection fees is projected to exceed the annual allocation, and, second to suspend the waiver program if the budget limit is reached.

A sum of \$500,000 of the total costs of the low-8. income bill discount and reconnection fee waiver programs is to be supplied from the Community Benefit Fund. To the extent that actual expenditures exceed the rate allowance in current rates of \$1,531,200, plus \$500,000 from the Community Benefit Fund, any shortfall will be supplied first, from the cumulative unused portions of the current rate allowances for the bill discount program, which is expected to be approximately \$500,000, and second, will be deferred as a regulatory asset. To the extent that actual expenditures fall short of the current rate allowance plus the cumulative unused portions of the current rate allowances for the bill discount program plus \$500,000 from the Community Benefit Fund, any excess will be deferred for use of the low-income bill discount program and the reconnection fee waiver program in a future rate proceeding.

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- 9. Customers enrolled in the EPOP or low income bill discount programs will continue to be referred by Central Hudson to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's Empower-NY program or any successor to the Empower-NY program, for energy efficiency services.
- 10. The parties agree that these modifications justify returning to a quarterly reporting schedule. Central Hudson will file quarterly and annual reports on the EPOP and bill discount programs with the Secretary and provide copies to other parties currently receiving copies of EPOP reports. With respect to the bill discount program, the reports will provide:
- The number of customers enrolled in the bill discount program;
- b. The aggregate amounts of low-income bill discounts for the quarter and year to date; and
- c. The number of reconnections of low income customers for which the fee was fully or partially waived, and the aggregate amount of reconnection fees waived to date.
 - 11. Nothing in this Joint Proposal is intended to prejudge the treatment of low income matters by the Commission in Central Hudson's next rate case.
 [39]

F. RETAIL ACCESS

In support of the Commission's retail market development initiatives, Central Hudson will set forth a total bill comparison, using the existing Central Hudson computer program that had been previously implemented, on all retail access residential bills using consolidated billing issued after 90 days following closing. The Signatories agree that this total bill comparison is to provide information to retail access customers that should be made available by the utility as part of the Commission's retail energy markets initiatives. Central Hudson shall report quarterly to the Secretary on this initiative so that Staff can continue to review and supervise this initiative and report any changes deemed desirable to the Commission on an on-going basis. Central Hudson's quarterly reports will also be provided to other parties currently receiving Central Hudson's EPOP reports.

In addition, for similar purposes of supporting the Commission's retail market development initiatives, within 60 days following issuance of the Commission Order in this case, Central Hudson will file a proposal to provide payment-troubled (i.e., subject to termination) customers with bill comparison information. The type of

[40]

reporting and continued monitoring appropriate for this initiative will be developed as part of the resolution of Central Hudson's pending proposal.

The costs of these two initiatives will be funded from the existing Competition Education Fund (net of the transfer of funds for economic development, as described below). Central Hudson shall propose a use or uses for any balance remaining in the Competition Education Fund, after these two initiatives have been funded, in its first rate filing following the closing. In the event that the costs of these two initiatives exceed the funding available from the existing Competition Education Fund (net of the transfer of funds for economic development), Central Hudson is authorized to defer the excess costs for future recovery with carrying charges at the PTROR.

The Signatories anticipate that modifications to either initiative may become appropriate based on developments in the ongoing generic retail access proceeding, Case 12-M-0476.

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G. <u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT FOR STATE</u> INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS

1. Economic Development

The Signatories agree that \$5 million will be allocated to economic development purposes to enhance the existing Central Hudson economic development programs. The \$5 million is in addition to the current Central Hudson rate allowance for economic development funding. The funding for this program will be through \$4.5 million from the remaining balance of the \$5 million Community Benefit Fund being provided by Petitioners and \$500,000 from Central Hudson's Competition Education Fund.

The parties to this proceeding will confer following the execution and filing of this Joint Petition in this case to seek to jointly develop consensus modifications to the existing Central Hudson economic development programs. Central Hudson shall make a filing with the Commission within 15 days following the Commission's order in this case proposing modifications to the existing economic development programs that include the parties' agreements. As part of the filing made by Central

[42]

Hudson, expedited consideration by the Commission will be requested. The proposal will be for programs that will continue to be administered by Central Hudson pursuant to existing Commission authorizations, with the clarifications and modifications as follows. Central Hudson will continue to hold custody of funds and administer the programs with input from the Counties in Central Hudson's service territory. The \$5 million will not receive carrying charges. The proposal will include the criterion that all applications for projects that do not have participation from Empire State Development, a County Industrial Development Agency, a County Community College, or local municipal resolution pursuant to existing program requirements will seek a letter of support from the County of origin. In addition, the proposal will state that Central Hudson will seek participation concerning award notifications and announcements from the County of origin prior to issuing such announcements.

In addition to filing the above proposal, Central Hudson will meet twice per year with representatives from all of the Counties in the Central Hudson [43] service territory to discuss economic development and potential program improvements. Nothing in this Joint Proposal is intended to prejudge the treatment of economic development matters by the Commission in Central Hudson's next rate case.

2) State Infrastructure Enhancements

Central Hudson shall continue to support the New York State Transmission Assessment and Reliability Study ("STARS"), the Energy Highway and economically justified gas expansion. Fortis agrees to provide equity support to the extent required by Central Hudson for such projects as receive regulatory approval and proceed to construction.

3) Gas Expansion Pilot Program

Central Hudson will commit to actively promote its "Simply Better" gas marketing expansion campaign in the Rate Freeze Period, seeking gas customer additions where Company gas facilities already exist, and economic expansion of its gas system, consistent with the Commission's Part 230 regulations, to identified expansion target areas in each operating district. The Company will continue to provide requesting and targeted customers with access to conversion calculators, third-party turnkey conversion services (potentially including a project specialist from start to finish, a licensed heating installation professional, a detailed cost/benefit proposal on converting their heating equipment, removal of existing oil tank, and coordination of the service and heating installations), and available financing from thirdparty lenders to assist customers who are seeking gas delivery service or to convert from alternate fuels.

In the event that adequate financial commitments can be secured from new firm service customers and municipal franchise approvals on reasonable conditions are secured in locations where Central Hudson does not currently have gas facilities or local franchises, Central Hudson will commit to file for expedited Commission approval to exercise such franchises as are shown by Central Hudson's analyses to comply with Part 230.

Central Hudson will begin, within 90 days of an Order in this proceeding approving this Joint Proposal, to track all gas service requests and keep record of: (1) applicable gas service request dates (i.e., customer request received, Company evaluation [45] or commitment made, service denied/initiated); (2) the address of requested service including the township and county; (3) calculated cost to install new service lines and main extensions including customer payment responsibility; and (4) reasons for a service not being initiated. Customer information will be protected consistent with the updated Standards addressed elsewhere in this Joint Proposal.

Central Hudson will propose applying a limited pilot expansion program aimed at testing ideas to economically expand gas to customers. The pilot can be either part of a new franchise filing or a separate filing to the Commission no later than July 1, 2013. The pilot will test all or any of the following ideas:

(1) Piggy back on top of anchor customers to reduce the actual need for additional pipe beyond the 100 foot rule;

(2) surcharge all customers or specific customers over five years or more based on the savings from their alternative fuel to write down assets in order to meet the overall Rate of Return (ROR) by year 5;

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(3) increase the minimum 100 feet allowed by a higher "average" amount for everyone in the customer cluster to be served based on anticipated additional revenues; and/or

(4) Trade Alliance by Central Hudson to purchase heating equipment from manufacturers for conversion/new customers and pass the savings to customers.

H. NEXT RATE CASE FILING

The Signatories recognize that Central Hudson may file new rate case applications at any time; however, the Petitioners agree to make such filing no earlier than the date that would be permitted for filing for rates to become effective on or after July 1, 2014. In its next rate case filing, Central Hudson shall provide, in a format similar to that of Petitioners' rebuttal testimony, an updated comparison between the debt ratings of Central Hudson and the regulated affiliates of Fortis based upon the latest rating agencies' analyses available at that time. In the same rate case filing, Central Hudson will include its analysis of Staff's white paper recommendations on LAUF.

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V. <u>ECONOMIC BENEFITS, INCLUDING SYNERGIES AND POSITIVE BENEFIT</u> ADJUSTMENTS

Petitioners have agreed to provide quantified economic benefits comprised of the following synergy and positive benefit adjustments: (i) synergy savings which are guaranteed for a period of 5 years and which will provide for future rate mitigation of \$9.25 million over the 5 years; (ii) a total of \$35 million of combined write-offs of deferred regulatory assets and future rate mitigation funds; and, (iii) one-time funding of \$5 million for a Community Benefit Fund for economic development and low income purposes. The Signatories agree that the benefits identified herein are sufficient to meet the Commission's public interest criterion (PSL Section 70). In reaching these agreements, the Signatories have recognized a number of additional factors that demonstrate that these quantified benefits are appropriate. The Signatories agree that the corporate governance and financial commitments made by Petitioners, together with the nature of Fortis' business model and proven track record, reduce the risks presented by this transaction and provide additional value to Central Hudson's ratepayers. In addition, the Signatories agree that absent the

transaction, it is likely that Central Hudson could have

[48]

demonstrated a need for a rate increase for the Rate Freeze Period. However, as a consequence of Central Hudson opting not to file a rate case for the Rate Freeze Period as part of the terms of this Joint Proposal, rates will be frozen for the full Rate Freeze Period. The parties agree these provisions provide additional benefits.

A. Synergy Savings/Guaranteed Rate Reductions

The Signatories have agreed that the transaction will produce synergy savings/guaranteed future rate mitigation totaling \$9.25 million (\$1.85 million/year for 5 years). Petitioners have agreed to guarantee these cost savings for a period of five years, and will begin accruing these guaranteed cost savings in the month following closing. The Signatories recognize that this accrual will provide rate mitigation for the benefit of customers that will be available at the start of the first rate year in the next rate case filed by Central Hudson. The Signatories anticipate that the forecast effect of the synergy cost savings will also be reflected in rates in Central Hudson's next rate case.

B. <u>Deferred Storm Restoration Cost Write-offs and Future</u> Rate Mitigation

A total of \$35 million will be provided to Central Hudson by Fortis upon the closing of the transaction and will be recorded as a regulatory liability to be applied to write off regulatory assets on the books of Central Hudson due to storm restoration costs and to provide balance sheet offsets and rate mitigation in Central Hudson's next rate filing.

1) Storm Restoration Cost Write-offs

Central Hudson currently has two storm restoration cost deferral petitions pending before the Commission in Cases 11-E-0651 (\$11.0 million exclusive of carrying charges) and 12-M-0204 (\$1.6 million exclusive of carrying charges), for a total of \$12.6 million exclusive of carrying charges. Additionally, Central Hudson has estimated that the incremental storm restoration costs above the current rate allowance resulting from Super-storm Sandy will be approximately \$10 million. The Signatories agree that Central Hudson shall file a formal Super-storm Sandy deferral petition as soon as reasonably practicable.³ The Signatories agree to utilize a placeholder total for these three events of \$22 million. The

³ The Signatories agree that the review of the new petition will be expedited to the extent possible.

Signatories agree that \$22 million will be written off promptly after the closing against the \$35 million regulatory liability being funded by Fortis, subject to true-up for subsequent Commission determinations concerning the storm restoration costs of the three storms. The Signatories agree that the three deferral requests will be reviewed by Staff consistent with the principles and practices in the recent Central Hudson storm restoration deferral petitions involving Twin Peaks (February 2010) in Case 10-M-0473 and the December 2008 ice storm in Case 09-M-0004.

2) Disposition of the Remaining Balance

The difference between the \$35 million being provided by Fortis and the \$22 million in placeholder storm restoration cost write-offs is currently estimated as a \$13 million placeholder. The Signatories agree that this \$13 million difference will be reserved as a regulatory liability with carrying charges at the pre-tax rate of return rate. At the time of the final, trued-up storm restoration cost determination by the Commission, the reserve and associated carrying charges will be adjusted up or down to conform to [51] the Commission's determination. The final amount will be reserved for additional future balance sheet write-offs or other rate moderation purposes, as shall be determined in Central Hudson's next rate case.

C. Community Benefit Fund

A total of \$5 million will be provided by Fortis for a Community Benefit Fund to be utilized for low income and economic development purposes as discussed in greater detail previously in this Joint Proposal.

VI. OTHER PROVISIONS

A. Counterparts

This Joint Proposal may be executed in counterparts, all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument which shall be binding upon each signatory when it is executed in counterpart, filed with the Secretary of the Commission and approved by the Commission; provided, however, that, upon execution, filing with the Secretary and prior to approval by the Commission, each Signatory shall be bound to support adoption of this Joint Proposal and, to the extent required by the context, to undertake actions necessary for implementation of the provisions of this Joint Proposal upon its approval by the Commission.

B. Provisions Not Separable

The Signatories intend this Joint Proposal to be a complete resolution of all the issues in Case 12-M-0192 and the terms of this Joint Proposal are submitted as an integrated whole. If the Commission does not accept this Joint Proposal according to its terms as the basis of the resolution of all issues addressed without change or condition, each Signatory shall have the right to withdraw from this Joint Proposal upon written notice to the Commission within ten days of the Commission Order. Upon such a withdrawal, the Signatories shall be free to pursue their respective positions in this proceeding without prejudice, and this Joint Proposal shall not be used in evidence or cited against any such Signatory or used for any other purpose. It is also understood that each provision of this Joint Proposal is in consideration and support of all the other provisions, and expressly conditioned upon acceptance by the Commission. Except as set forth herein, none of the Signatories is deemed to have approved, agreed to or consented to any principle, methodology or interpretation of law underlying or supposed to underlie any provision herein.

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C. Provisions Not Precedent

The terms and provisions of this Joint Proposal apply solely to, and are binding only in the context of the purposes and results of this Joint Proposal. None of the terms or provisions of this Joint Proposal and none of the positions taken herein by any Signatory may be referred to, cited, or relied upon by any other party in any fashion as precedent or otherwise in any other proceeding before this Commission or any other regulatory agency or before any court of law for any purpose other than furtherance of the purposes, results, and disposition of matters governed by this Joint Proposal. This Joint Proposal shall not be construed, interpreted or otherwise deemed in any respect to constitute an admission by any Signatory regarding any allegations, contentions or issues raised in this proceeding or addressed in this Joint Proposal.

D. Submission of Proposal

Each Signatory agrees to submit this Joint Proposal to the Commission, to support and request its adoption by the Commission, and not to take a position in this proceeding contrary to the agreements set forth herein or to assist another participant in taking such a contrary position in these proceedings.

E. Further Assurances

The Signatories recognize that certain provisions of this Joint Proposal require that actions be taken in the future to fully effectuate this Joint Proposal. Accordingly, the Signatories agree to cooperate with each other in good faith in taking such actions. In the event of any disagreement over the interpretation of this Joint Proposal or implementation of any of the provisions of this Joint Proposal, which cannot be resolved informally among the Signatories, such disagreement shall be resolved in the following manner: (a) the Signatories shall promptly convene a conference and in good faith attempt to resolve any such disagreement; and (b) if any such disagreement cannot be resolved by the Signatories, any Signatory may petition the Commission for resolution of the disputed matter.

F. Entire Agreement

This Joint Proposal, including all attachments, exhibits and appendices, if any, represents the entire agreement of the Signatories with respect to the matters resolved herein.

VII. SIGNATURES

WHEREFORE, This Joint Proposal has been agreed to as of January 25, 2013 by and among the following, each of whom by his or her signature represents that he or she is fully authorized to execute this Joint Proposal and, if executing this Joint Proposal in a representative capacity, that he or she is fully authorized to execute it on behalf of his or her principal(s).

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.]

[56]

SIGNATURE PAGES TO JOINT PROPOSAL DATED JANUARY 25, 2013

Cascade Acquisition Sub Inc., Fortis Inc. and FortisUS Inc. By: Barry V. Perry Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer of Fortis Inc. CH Energy Group Inc. By: Christopher A. Capone Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation By: Michael L. Mosher Vice-President Regulatory Affairs Staff of N.Y.S. Department of Public Service By: John L. Favreau, Esq. Assistant Counsel Staff of N.Y.S. Department of Public Service New York Department of State Utility Intervention Unit By: Robert T. Friel Director Dutchess County New York: Dutchess County supports the following portions of the Joint Proposal: paragraphs IV.G.1 and V.C (Economic Development), paragraph V.A (Synergy Savings/Guaranteed Rate Reductions), paragraph V.B

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(Deferred Storm Restoration Cost Write-offs and Future Rate

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CH Energy Group Inc.

Chins the Carm Bv:

Christopher M. Capone Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation

By: _____ Michael L. Mosher Vice-President Regulatory Affairs

Staff of N.Y.S. Department of Public Service

By:

John L. Favreau, Esq. Assistant Counsel Staff of N.Y.S. Department of Public Service

New York Department of State Utility Intervention Unit

By:

Robert T. Friel Director

Dutchess County New York: Dutchess County supports the following portions of the Joint Proposal: paragraphs IV.G.1 and V.C (Economic Development), paragraph V.A (Synergy Savings/Guaranteed Rate Reductions), paragraph V.B (Deferred Storm Restoration Cost Write-offs and Future Rate Mitigation), and paragraph IV.C and the portions of

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Staff of N.Y.S. Department of Public Service une By:

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Christopher A. Capone Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation

By: Michael L. Mosher Vice-President Regulatory Affairs

Staff of N.Y.S. Department of Public Service

By: John L. Favreau, Esq. Assistant Counsel Staff of N.Y.S. Department of Public Service

New	York Department	of sta	te Uti	lity	Intervention	Unit
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Robert T. Friel Director

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By Marcus Dutchess County Executive

Multiple Intervenors

By: Michael B. Mager, Esq. Couch White, LLP Attorneys for Multiple Intervenors

Orange County New York: Orange County supports the following portions of the Joint Proposal: paragraphs IV.G.1 and V.C (Economic Development), paragraph V.A (Synergy Savings/Guaranteed Rate Reductions), paragraph V.B (Deferred Storm Restoration Cost Write-offs and Future Rate Mitigation), and paragraph IV.C and the portions of paragraph IV.H related to the one-year rate freeze. In addition, Orange County takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By: Edward A. Diana County Executive for Orange County

Ulster County New York: Ulster County supports paragraphs IV.G and V.C of the Joint Proposal and takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By: Mike Hein Ulster County Executive paragraph IV.H related to the one-year rate freeze. In addition, Dutchess County takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By:

Marcus Molinaro Dutchess County Executive

Multiple Intervenors

BV: Michael B. Mager

Michael B. Mager, Esq. Couch White, LLP Attorneys for Multiple Intervenors

Orange County New York: Orange County supports the following portions of the Joint Proposal: paragraphs IV.G.1 and V.C (Economic Development), paragraph V.A (Synergy Savings/Guaranteed Rate Reductions), paragraph V.B (Deferred Storm Restoration Cost Write-offs and Future Rate Mitigation), and paragraph IV.C and the portions of paragraph IV.H related to the one-year rate freeze. In addition, Orange County takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By: Edward A. Diana County Executive for Orange County

Ulster County New York: Ulster County supports paragraphs IV.G and V.C of the Joint Proposal and takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By: Mike Hein Ulster County Executive paragraph IV.H related to the one-year rate freeze. In addition, Dutchess County takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By: Marcus Molinaro Dutchess County Executive

Multiple Intervenors

By: Michael B. Mager, Esq. Couch White, LLP Attorneys for Multiple Intervenors

Orange County New York: Orange County supports the following portions of the Joint Proposal: paragraphs IV.G.1 and V.C (Economic Development), paragraph V.A (Synergy Savings/Guaranteed Rate Reductions), paragraph V.B (Deferred Storm Restoration Cost Write-offs and Future Rate Mitigation), and paragraph IV.C and the portions of paragraph IV.H related to the one-year rate freeze. In addition, Orange County takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By: Diana Diana

for County Executive for Orange County

Ulster County New York: Ulster County supports paragraphs IV.G and V.C of the Joint Proposal and takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By: Mike Hein Ulster County Executive paragraph IV.H related to the one-year rate freeze. In addition, Dutchess County takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By: Marcus Molinaro Dutchess County Executive

Multiple Intervenors

By:

Michael B. Mager, Esq. Couch White, LLP Attorneys for Multiple Intervenors

Orange County New York: Orange County supports the following portions of the Joint Proposal: paragraphs IV.G.1 and V.C (Economic Development), paragraph V.A (Synergy Savings/Guaranteed Rate Reductions), paragraph V.B (Deferred Storm Restoration Cost Write-offs and Future Rate Mitigation), and paragraph IV.C and the portions of paragraph IV.H related to the one-year rate freeze. In addition, Orange County takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By: Edward A. Diana County Executive for Orange County

Ulster County New York: Ulster County supports paragraphs IV.G, the portions of paragraph IV.H related to the oneyear rate freeze, and V.C of the Joint Proposal and takes no position with respect to the matters discussed in rest of the Joint Proposal.

By:

Mike Hein Ulster County Executive

ATTACHMENT I

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

STATE OF NEW YORK BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case 12-M-0192- Joint Petition of Fortis Inc. et al. and CH Energy Group, Inc. et al. for Approval of the Acquisition of CH Energy Group, Inc. by Fortis Inc. and Related Transactions.

STANDARDS PERTAINING TO TRANSACTIONS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, COST ALLOCATIONS AND SHARING OF INFORMATION BETWEEN CENTRAL HUDSON GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION AND AFFILIATES

I. Introduction

This Standards Pertaining To Transactions, Conflicts Of Interest, Cost Allocations And Sharing Of Information Between Central Hudson Gas And Electric Corporation And Affiliates replaces and supersedes the Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement As Approved by the Commission on February 19, 1998 With Modifications and Conditions ("RSA"), Case 96-E-0909 (Attachment I Standards of Conduct) as to the language and topics addressed herein. All other provisions of the RSA, including Attachments A-H, J, K, remain as approved by the Commission in Case 96-E-0909 unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties in writing or ordered by the Commission. Central Hudson Gas and Electric ("Central Hudson") retains the right to manage its own affairs including the right to amend the Standards of Conduct from time to time in a manner consistent with the Commission's Orders and statute. Central Hudson shall provide the Secretary and Department of Public Service Staff ("Staff") with thirty (30) days notice prior to amending these Standards.

The following pertains to transactions, conflicts of interest, cost allocations and the sharing of information (collectively referred to herein as the "Standards") between Central Hudson and affiliates.¹ References in these Standards to any of the foregoing affiliates shall be deemed to include any successors. Central Hudson shall comply with the Standards within thirty (30) days following their effective date. Nothing in these Standards relieves Central Hudson or its affiliates from any obligation they may have pursuant to the PSL, including Sections 70 and 110. Nothing herein serves to divest Central Hudson or its affiliates of their legal rights under the PSL, Public Service Commission ("Commission") Orders or otherwise.

All costs and revenues recorded on Central Hudson's books of account from all affiliate transactions shall conform in all material respects to the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts.

II. Organizational Structure

A. Separation and Location

Central Hudson shall maintain separate books of account and other business records from its affiliates.

Central Hudson shall petition the Commission for approval before it establishes and maintains at an existing Central Hudson location separate and distinct office and work space from any competitive affiliate operating in any energy-related business(es) within Central Hudson's service territory.

Central Hudson shall maintain appropriate physical and technological security, with an appropriate monitoring system, to prevent competitive affiliates from accessing or obtaining Central Hudson's confidential information or other information that may provide the affiliate with a competitive advantage.

Central Hudson will not conduct competitive services, including competitive behind-the-meter energy services, absent an application to, and approval by the Commission, except that Central Hudson will be permitted to provide solutions to customer reliability and deliverability issues related to electric and gas transmission and distribution.

¹ Affiliates are considered any entity as defined as such under Public Service Law ("PSL") §110(2).

Finally, any affiliate shall be established as a separate business entity from Central Hudson.

B. Board of Directors

No later than one year after the closing of the acquisition of CH Energy Group, Inc. ("CHEG") by Fortis Inc. ("Fortis"), Fortis will appoint a board of directors for Central Hudson, the majority of whom will be independent², with the majority of such independent directors being resident in the State of New York and with emphasis on selecting candidates who reside, conduct business or work within the Central Hudson service territory.

III. Affiliate Transactions

A. Standards of Competitive Conduct

Central Hudson shall comply with the Commission rules governing Uniform Business Practices:³

1. Sales Leads

Central Hudson will not provide market information or sales leads for customers in its service territory to any affiliate, including an affiliated energy services company and will refrain from giving any appearance that it speaks on behalf of an affiliate.

² Independent is as defined in Section 10A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Nothing herein prohibits an independent Central Hudson director from being elected to the board of directors of Fortis Inc., and such appointment shall not immediately and by itself deprive the Central Hudson director of his or her status as independent for purposes of these Standards. If, however, the election of an independent Central Hudson board member to the Fortis Inc. board would result in a minority of independent directors on the Central Hudson board, excluding that director, Central Hudson and/or Fortis shall notify the Secretary of the Commission of the nomination of such director within 10 days following the issuance of the Fortis Inc. proxy materials pertaining to the election of Fortis Inc. board members. As part of such notice, Central Hudson and/or Fortis shall describe the benefits to Central Hudson and its customers of having such director serve on both boards. In the event that the Commission raises concerns about such director's service on both boards, Central Hudson and Fortis shall make reasonable business efforts to address such concerns. In the event that the Commission does not deem the efforts or measures taken by Central Hudson and Fortis to be adequate for their intended purpose, Fortis and Central Hudson shall, within no more than two years, ensure that the Central Hudson board is constituted with a majority of independent directors, excluding the director previously elected to the board of Fortis Inc...

³FortisUS Energy Corporation, which owns four Qualifying Facilities with a combined output of approximately 23 MW, all of which is sold under contracts with National Grid, does not operate in Central Hudson's service territory or compete with Central Hudson.
Central Hudson will not imply or represent to any customer, supplier or third party that any form of advantage may accrue to such customer, supplier or third party in the use of Central Hudson's services as a result of that customer, supplier or third party dealing with an affiliate. No affiliate will imply or represent to any customer, supplier or third party that any form of advantage may accrue to such customer, supplier or third party in the use of Central Hudson's services as a result of that customer, supplier or third party dealing with an affiliate. Central Hudson will not purchase goods or services on preferential terms offered only by suppliers who purchase goods or services from or sell goods or services to an affiliate of Central Hudson.

2. Customer Inquiries

If a customer requests information about securing any competitive retail service or product offered within Central Hudson's service territory by an affiliate, Central Hudson must provide a list of competitive retail companies or affiliates that are qualified and approved pursuant to Central Hudson's standards (including retail access standards) as providers of the requested products or services within Central Hudson's service territory. While this list may include Central Hudson affiliates, the list must provide information by company in alphabetical order and may not place greater emphasis on or promote any Central Hudson affiliate. A Central Hudson employee shall not promote any competitive retail affiliate operating in Central Hudson's service territory, other than to acknowledge, at the request of a customer, that an affiliation exists between Central Hudson and such affiliate or provide a list of competitive retail providers, which may include competitive retail affiliates.

3. Customer Information

Central Hudson shall not release proprietary customer information to Energy Service Companies ("ESCOs"), including an ESCO affiliated with Central Hudson, without the prior authorization by the customer and subject to the customer's direction regarding the ESCOs to whom the information may be released.⁴ Central Hudson

⁴ It is not a release of information by Central Hudson where an ESCO accesses customer information through Central Hudson's website, or otherwise, without Central Hudson's knowledge. Central Hudson will act in accordance with Uniform Business Standards.

shall maintain verifiable proof of customer authorization for two years after receipt of the authorization. The verifiable proof shall be available to Staff at Central Hudson's offices upon request. Under no circumstance will Central Hudson release more than 24 months of proprietary customer information unless authorized to do so by the customer or ordered to provide the information by a regulatory authority or court of competent jurisdiction. Proprietary customer information includes the customer's name, address, telephone number, account number, social security number and credit report. If a customer authorizes the release of information to a Central Hudson affiliate or one or more of the affiliate's competitors, Central Hudson shall make that information available to the affiliate and/or other competitors designated by the customer on a non-discriminatory basis. Nothing herein shall require Central Hudson to release customer information to its affiliate or any competitor unless such release is authorized by the customer.

Except for purposes of complying with applicable statutes, regulations and orders, Central Hudson will not disclose to any competitive affiliate or non-affiliate any customer or market information about its gas or electric transmission and distribution systems that may provide a competitive advantage in the gas and electric markets. Customer or market information includes, but is not limited to, confidential information that Central Hudson receives from a marketer, customer or prospective customer, which is not available from sources other than Central Hudson, unless it makes such information available to all competitors on a non-discriminatory basis.

Pursuant to the Commission's Order on Rehearing Granting Petition for Rehearing issued and effective December 3, 2010 in Case 07-M-0548, Central Hudson may also enter contracts for the benefit of customers with third party service and/or materials providers, including affiliates, that include the transfer of proprietary customer information or other confidential material. Central Hudson may enter a contract with an affiliate or third party service and/or material provider that requires the transfer of proprietary customer information or other confidential material if the affiliate or third party executes a Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement. Under all circumstances where Central Hudson transfers proprietary customer information or other confidential market data to an affiliate, ESCO, or other third party Central Hudson shall execute a Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement with the affiliate, ESCO or other third party. The Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement shall restrict access to the protected material to only those employees of the recipient affiliate, ESCO or other third party whose functions require that they have access to the subject information. Such employees shall be instructed to maintain the confidentiality of such information and execute an Individual Non-Disclosure Agreement. A copy of Central Hudson's Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement is set forth as Code of Conduct Attachment 1. Central Hudson shall retain executed Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreements at its headquarters for Staff's review upon its request.

Central Hudson's critical infrastructure information shall remain, in all media formats, within the headquarters of Central Hudson, and it shall retain customer data (i.e., names, addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, credit reports) in all media formats, within the headquarters or customer service center of Central Hudson unless a regulatory authority or court of competent jurisdiction requires Central Hudson to provide the information.

4. **Complaint Procedure**

If any competitor or customer of Central Hudson believes that Central Hudson has violated the Standards, such competitor or customer may file a complaint in writing with Central Hudson. Central Hudson will respond to the complaint in writing within twenty (20) business days after receipt of the complaint. After providing its response to the complainant, Central Hudson and the complainant will meet, if necessary, in an attempt to resolve the matter informally. If Central Hudson and the complainant are not able to resolve the matter informally within fifteen (15) business days after the commencement of the informal resolution process, the complainant may refer the matter to the Commission for disposition. This provision shall not preclude the Commission from addressing any such matter more expeditiously in the event that exigent circumstances so require. Nothing herein shall preclude a complainant from filing a formal complaint before the Commission without participating in the informal resolution process. In any instance in which a formal complaint is filed with the Commission Central Hudson shall have a full and fair opportunity to be heard through a process established by the Commission. The Commission may order any such remedies to resolve the complaint as are within its statutory authority.

5. No Advantage Gained by Dealing with Affiliate

Central Hudson will refrain from giving any appearance that Central Hudson speaks on behalf of any affiliate operating in its service territory. Central Hudson will not participate in any joint promotion or marketing with any affiliate operating in its service territory. Concerning competitive retail electric or natural gas services offered in the market, Central Hudson will not represent to any customer, supplier or third-party that an advantage may accrue to such customer, supplier or third-party in the use of the Company's tariffed services as a result of that customer, supplier or third-party dealing with a competitive affiliate. A competitive affiliate operating in any energy-related business(es) within Central Hudson's service territory may not use the name "Central Hudson" to market its competitive product. No non-Central Hudson company will be allowed by Central Hudson or Fortis to use the Central Hudson name, trade names, trademarks, service markets or a derivative of a name of Central Hudson in any manner.⁵

6. No Rate Discrimination

All similarly-situated customers, including ESCOs and customers of ESCOs, whether affiliated or unaffiliated, will pay the same rates for Central Hudson's tariffed utility services. If there is discretion in the application of any tariff provision, Central Hudson must not offer its affiliate more favorable terms and conditions than it has offered to all similarly-situated competitors of the affiliate. In particular, Central Hudson shall process all requests for similar service in the same manner, within similar time periods, and without any preferential treatment for customers seeking tariffed services from Central Hudson affiliates. Central Hudson shall not give preference to a customer of an affiliate, or to an affiliate, regarding repairs or maintenance, or operation of its

⁵ "Non-Central Hudson company" means an entity that is not controlled by Central Hudson or Fortis and that is not an affiliate of Central Hudson or Fortis Inc.

system.

Central Hudson shall, pursuant to Public Service law Section 66(12)(d), charge all tariff customers the rates and charges specified in its schedule filed and in effect.

Central Hudson may provide non-tariffed service to customers, including affiliates, by contract or other similar arrangement. Contract service provided by Central Hudson shall not affect the rate paid by tariffed customers. Central Hudson shall maintain executed contracts or other arrangements on file at its corporate headquarters available for review by Staff upon request.

B. Training and Certification

Central Hudson and any affiliate operating in its service territory, shall conduct training on these Standards for its officers and directors (including employee directors) and Shared Employees. Central Hudson's officers and directors, Shared Employees and affiliates operating in Central Hudson's service territory shall certify familiarity with these Standards within ninety (90) days following their effective date. Central Hudson shall certify that it has provided training regarding the Standards to any new officers, directors and Shared Employees within ninety (90) days after the start date for each new officer, director, or Shared Employee.

C. Adherence to Standards

On an annual basis Central Hudson's General Counsel and Vice President Human Resources and Health & Safety, or their successors, shall provide certification to the Commission of Central Hudson's adherence to the Standards. If, after an investigation by an independent auditor and hearing, the Commission finds that Central Hudson is not in substantial compliance⁶ with the Standards, the Commission can order Central Hudson to pay for the cost of the independent auditor. If Central Hudson is in substantial compliance with the Standards it may petition to defer and recover the costs of the independent auditor without regard to the Commission's threepart test for deferral accounting. As part of the independent auditor's investigation it shall review the transactions and cost allocations necessary to determine Central Hudson's substantial compliance or lack thereof

⁶ Substantial compliance shall be determined by the Commission.

IV. Ethics

All Central Hudson employees, officers and directors must adhere to Central Hudson's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics ("Ethics Code") as it may be amended from time to time. Central Hudson will maintain its Ethics Code at its headquarters in a manner available to Staff upon request. Central Hudson will make the Ethics Code available to its employees, officers and directors electronically at all times.

A. Corporate Governance

Central Hudson directors, officers and employees shall adhere to the applicable CHEG Governance Guidelines as they may be amended from time to time. Governance Guidelines set forth Central Hudson's principles and requirements for conflict of interest, recusal from participation in decision making and other corporate governance issues. Central Hudson will maintain its Governance Guidelines at its headquarters in a manner available to Staff upon request. Central Hudson will make its Governance Guidelines available to its employees, officers and directors electronically at all times.

V. Cost Allocations

Central Hudson will continue to follow the cost allocation procedures approved by the Commission as the Guidelines for Transactions Between Central Hudson and its Affiliates approved by the Commission in Case 96-E-0909 as set forth in Attachment H Cost Allocation Guidelines of the Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement as Approved by the Commission on February 19, 1998. In the event that Central Hudson's affiliate transactions exceed \$7.5 million, as measured by the transactions in the immediately preceding rate year excluding transactions with an affiliated Transmission Company ("Transco") and dividend payments, Central Hudson and Staff will discuss appropriate modifications to the Cost Allocation Guidelines set forth in the RSA at Attachment H. If such discussions do not lead to a resolution of cost allocation issues within ninety (90) days Central Hudson shall notify the Commission's Secretary and convene a collaborative to resolve cost allocation issues. Adherence to the Guidelines will assure that Central Hudson maintains proper cost allocation procedures regarding transactions between Central Hudson and its affiliates. Central Hudson will meet annually with Staff on or before April 1 of each year to review its cost allocations and their application. If at any time Central Hudson becomes aware of events likely to cause a reconsideration of or material change to its ownership or cost allocations, Central Hudson will advise Staff and arrange a meeting in order to consider cost allocation issues. Central Hudson may seek to amend the Cost Allocation Guidelines from time to time and will file with the Secretary of the Commission all proposed amendments and supplements to the guidelines at least thirty (60) days prior to their proposed effective date. These procedures apply to Paragraphs V (A-D) set forth below.

A. Transfer of Assets

Public Service Law Section 70 applies to certain transfers of assets from Central Hudson to any affiliate. Central Hudson will continue to abide by the Guidelines for Transactions Between Central Hudson and its Affiliates approved by the Commission in Case 96-E-0909 as set forth in Attachment H of the Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement as Approved by the Commission on February 19, 1998. Central Hudson will maintain its affiliate transaction guidelines at its headquarters in a manner available to Staff upon request. Central Hudson will make its affiliate transaction guidelines available to its employees, officers and directors electronically at all times. Any affiliate receiving goods or services from Central Hudson will compensate Central Hudson in a timely fashion. Standard commercial terms for payments will apply to transactions between Central Hudson and its affiliates. If the Commission determines that the commercial terms applicable to a transaction between Central Hudson and an affiliate are unreasonable it may issue an appropriate remedy.

B. Transfer of Services

Central Hudson will continue to abide by the Guidelines for Transactions Between Central Hudson and its Affiliates approved by the Commission in Case 96-E-0909 as set forth in Attachment H of the Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement as Approved by the Commission on February 19, 1998. Central Hudson will maintain its affiliate transaction guidelines at its headquarters in a manner available to Staff upon request. Central Hudson will make its affiliate transaction guidelines available to its employees, officers and directors electronically at all times. Any affiliate receiving goods or services from Central Hudson will compensate Central Hudson in a timely fashion.

C. Insurance

Central Hudson and any affiliate may be covered by common property, casualty and other business insurance policies. Such policies shall provide Central Hudson with commercially reasonable protections against liability. Central Hudson and its affiliates shall maintain a corporate structure sufficient to protect it from the liabilities of its affiliates, as well as any increases in Central Hudson's insurance costs resulting from the inclusion of property or assets held by an affiliate(s) in such insurance policies. Central Hudson shall, to the extent that market information is available, submit with each rate case petition, a market survey to determine whether it could obtain insurance separately from its affiliates on financial and other terms and conditions superior to the common policies maintained with its affiliates and report to the Staff the results of its survey. The costs of such policies shall be allocated among Central Hudson and any affiliate in an equitable manner.

D. Personnel

1. Sharing of Employees, Officers and Directors

Central Hudson and its affiliates may have Shared Employees. Operating employees, defined as non-management employees, shall not be shared except for purposes of training or emergencies—including mutual assistance. A Shared Employee is a Central Hudson employee assigned to perform work for Central Hudson and one or more affiliate(s) for a period of more than six months. Central Hudson shall maintain a list of Shared Employees by position and employee number updated every six months at its offices and available for inspection by Staff upon request.

Operating officers (i.e., those officers providing other than corporate services) of Central Hudson will not be operating officers of any of its affiliates.

An officer or director of Central Hudson may not serve as an officer or

director of a competitive affiliate operating in Central Hudson's service territory.

Corporate employees may be provided by Central Hudson on a fully loaded cost-basis. During its provision of any such shared services, such individual shall be subject to all requirements in these Standards pertaining to information obtained about/from Central Hudson. Nothing herein shall limit the Commission's authority to determine ratemaking issues arising out of such transactions.

Central Hudson shall allocate the costs of employees performing work for Central Hudson and an affiliate pursuant to Attachment H of the Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement as Approved by the Commission on February 19, 1998.

Officers and directors of Central Hudson may not use any of the Company's marketing, sales, advertising, public relations, and/or energy purchasing expertise to provide services to any affiliate that competes with Central Hudson in any energy-related business within Central Hudson's service territory. Before any Central Hudson employee performs work for an affiliate, whether such employee is a Shared Employee or not, Central Hudson shall ensure that such employees are familiar with the Standards. Nothing herein shall limit the Commission's authority over ratemaking issues arising out of such transactions.

Affiliates may provide services to Central Hudson and may have separate contracts and billings for such services. Nothing in this section shall authorize Central Hudson to engage in a transaction with any affiliate if such transaction would otherwise be prohibited under these Standards, or authorize Central Hudson to tender preferential treatment to any affiliate. Any management, construction, engineering or similar contract between Central Hudson and any affiliate and any contract for the purchase by Central Hudson from an affiliate shall be governed by PSL §110.

2. Transfer of Employees

If a Central Hudson employee accepts a position with any affiliate, he or she will be required to resign from Central Hudson, unless there is a conflict with the collective bargaining agreement in which case the collective bargaining agreement shall control. Any such employee shall be prohibited from copying or taking any nonpublic customer or competitively sensitive market information from Central Hudson.

3. Compensation for Employee Transfers

Employees may be transferred from Central Hudson to an affiliate or an affiliate to Central Hudson. Employees transferred by Central Hudson to an affiliate competing with Central Hudson in Central Hudson's service territory may not be reemployed by Central Hudson for a minimum of one year after such transfer. Central Hudson will file annual reports with the Commission showing transfers between Central Hudson and any affiliates by employee number, former company, former position and salary and new company, new position and salary or annualized base compensation. If the Commission determines that employee transfers inappropriately harm Central Hudson and its customers the Commission may order an appropriate remedy.

4. Employee Loans in an Emergency

The foregoing provisions in no way restrict any affiliate from loaning employees to Central Hudson to respond to an emergency that threatens the safety or reliability of service to customers; nor shall such provisions restrict Central Hudson from loaning employees to other regulated utilities, whether affiliated or unaffiliated, to respond to an emergency that threatens such safety or reliability of service to consumers. Central Hudson shall allocate the costs of employees loaned to, or from, a Central Hudson affiliate pursuant to Attachment H of the Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement as Approved by the Commission on February 19, 1998.

5. Compensation and Benefits

The compensation of Central Hudson's operating employees, officers and directors (including employee directors) may not be tied directly to the performance of any affiliates; provided, however, that this provision shall not preclude such compensation based upon aggregate performance of Central Hudson and any affiliate, including compensation based on Fortis's stock performance. The employees of Central Hudson and any affiliate may participate in common pension and benefit

plans, and the cost shall be allocated pursuant to Attachment H of the Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement as Approved by the Commission on February 19, 1998.

6. Legal Representation

Central Hudson shall have its own internal and/or external counsel whose primary responsibility is Central Hudson. Central Hudson shall not provide counsel for a competitive affiliate operating in Central Hudson's service territory in any matter between the two affiliates where the interest of the competitive affiliate is adverse to that of Central Hudson. Regarding any matter Central Hudson will take appropriate steps to ensure that Central Hudson's interests are vigorously and independently protected. Outside counsel shall adhere to the same standards as are required of Central Hudson to protect Central Hudson's confidential information that may be available to them in the course of their representation.

VI. Audits

A. Access to Books, Records and Reports

The following provisions govern the access by Staff, and are not intended to supersede or otherwise limit or expand the applicability of the PSL, to all books and records related to all transactions for goods and services and cost allocations that occur between Central Hudson and any affiliates:

1. Access to Information

Staff will have access, upon reasonable notice and subject to appropriate resolution of any issues pertaining to applicable privileges and protections against disclosure, including the attorney/client privilege, and confidentiality, to the books and records of any affiliate, controlled by Central Hudson, with which Central Hudson has transactions. Staff will have access to the extent necessary to verify the reasonableness of the charges associated with the transactions, to confirm that the terms and conditions of the transactions do not discriminate against entities competing with Central Hudson in its service territory, and as necessary for ratemaking purposes.⁷ For

⁷ The provisions of the RSA at 70-73, titled 32. *Privileged Information* and 33. *Confidentiality of Record* shall govern and control the resolution of privilege and confidentiality issues that may arise.

any affiliate over which Central Hudson does not have sufficient control to require such access, Central Hudson shall nevertheless employ its best efforts to provide such access and, in the event Central Hudson is unable to do so, it shall provide an explanation of the reasons therefor. These Standards will not be interpreted as restricting Staff in obtaining any affiliate information pursuant to PSL § 110. Nothing herein shall limit the Commission's authority over ratemaking issues arising out of such transactions.

2. Location of Audit Information

All access to Central Hudson's books and records and the books and records of affiliates controlled by Central Hudson shall be provided at Central Hudson's headquarters and shall be available to Staff upon request and in no event shall these provisions unreasonably delay Staff's ability to perform its audit functions. Central Hudson will use its best efforts to provide access to the books and records of affiliates it does not control at its headquarters and will provide Staff with an explanation if it cannot do so. Any information provided shall be subject to applicable privileges and protections against disclosure pursuant to Civil Procedure Law and Rules §§ 3101 and 4503 and as provided for in the PSL and the Commission's regulations at 16 NYCRR Parts 3 through 5 including resolution of confidentiality issues pursuant to the Commission's regulations on confidential information at 16 NYCRR Part 6, with due regard to the regulations of any other commission that may have jurisdiction over the information.

3. Company Liaison

A senior officer of Central Hudson will designate an employee, as well as an alternate to act in the absence of such designee ("Liaisons"), to act as liaison between Central Hudson and Staff. The Liaisons will facilitate the production of information to Staff. If Central Hudson believes that information requested by Staff should not be provided Central Hudson will provide the reason for its belief through the Liaisons.

Nothing herein shall deprive Central Hudson, or its affiliates, of the ability to claim privilege or confidentiality as set forth in the RSA.

B. Reporting

Commencing with the period ending December 31, 2013, Central Hudson shall file, by April 1 of each year, a joint annual report to the Commission, summarizing, for the prior year, any asset transfers, shared employees, employee transfers, employee loans for emergencies, contracts, cost allocations, affiliate transactions and competitor or customer complaints concerning the course of conduct between Central Hudson and any affiliate that is related to these Standards. Further, any management employee transfers shall be reported to the Commission on a quarterly basis beginning on April 1 of each year.

Employee transfers between Central Hudson and an affiliate shall be reported by employee number, former company, former position, new company and new position. Employee loans from an affiliate to Central Hudson to respond to an emergency that threatens the safety or reliability of service to consumers shall be reported by employee number, companies involved and length of loan period.

C. Confidentiality of Records

Central Hudson and, as applicable, any affiliate shall designate as confidential any non-public information to or of which Staff requests access or disclosure, and which such entity believes is entitled to be treated as a trade secret, and may submit information to the Commission or Staff subject to the Commission's regulations on confidential information at 16 NYCRR Part 6.

Case 12-M-0192

ATTACHMENT II

ELECTRIC RELIABILITY PERFORMANCE MECHANISM

Electric Reliability

Operation of Mechanism

This electric service Reliability Performance Mechanism ("reliability mechanism") has been in effect for Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation beginning on <u>June 18, 2010</u> and will remain in effect until reset by the Commission. The measurement periods for the reliability mechanism metrics will be on a calendar year basis.

The reliability mechanism establishes the following performance metrics:

(a) threshold standards, consisting of system-wide performance targets for frequency and duration of electric service interruption defined as:

- CAIDI Customer Average Interruption Duration Index. The average interruption duration time (customers-hours interrupted) for those customers that experience an interruption during the year.
- 2. SAIFI System Average Interruption Frequency Index. It is the average number of times that a customer is interrupted per 1,000 customers served during the year.

The electric service annual metrics for System Average Frequency Index (SAIFI) and Customer Average Duration Index (CAIDI) shall be a 15 basis point (electric, pre-tax) potential negative revenue adjustment for failure to achieve an annual SAIFI target of 1.45, and a 15 basis point (electric, pre-tax) potential negative revenue adjustment for failure to achieve an annual CAIDI of 2.50. These index targets are the same as approved in the 2009 Rate Order in Case 09-E-0588 (2009 Rate Order). After the merger, the revenue adjustment will double where the Company does not satisfy a performance target.

(b) The Quarterly Meeting process will be continued per the 2009 Rate Order.

All revenue adjustments related to this reliability mechanism will come from shareholder funds and will be deferred for the benefit of ratepayers.

Exclusions

The following exclusions will be applicable to operating performance under this reliability mechanism:

- (a) Any outages resulting from a major storm, as defined in 16 NYCRR Part 97 (i.e., at least 10% of the customers interrupted within an operating area or customers out of service for at least 24 hours), except as otherwise noted.
- (b) Any incident resulting from a catastrophic event beyond the control of the Company, including but not limited to plane crash, water main break, or natural disasters (e.g., hurricanes, floods, earthquakes).

(c) Any incident where problems beyond the Company's control involving generation or the bulk transmission system is the key factor in the outage, including, but not limited to, NYISO mandated load shedding. This criterion is not intended to exclude incidents that occur as a result of unsatisfactory performance by the Company.

Reporting

The Company will prepare an annual report(s) on its performance under this reliability mechanism. The annual report(s) will be filed by March 31st of each year to the Secretary.

The reports will state the:

- (a) Company's annual system-wide performance under the RPM and identify whether a revenue adjustment is applicable and, if so, the amount of the revenue adjustment;
- (b) Company's performance under the other metrics and identify whether a revenue adjustment is applicable and, if so, the amount of the revenue adjustment; and
- (c) Basis for requesting and provide adequate support for all exclusions.

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ATTACHMENT III

PARTS 255/261 MATERIALS

PARTS 255 / 261 MATERIALS

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HIGH RISK SECTIONS PART 255

ACTIVITY TITLE	CODE SECTION	RISK FACTOR
Material - General	255.53(a),(b),(c)	HIGH
Transportation of Pipe	255.65	HIGH
Pipe Design - General	255.103	HIGH
Design of Components - General Requirements	255.143	HIGH
Design of Components - Flexibility	255,159	HIGH
Design of Components - Supports and anchors	255.161	HIGH
Compressor Stations: Emergency shutdown	255,167	HIGH
Compressor Stations: Pressure limiting devices	255.169	HIGH
Compressor Stations: Ventilation	255.173	HIGH
Valves on pipelines to operate at 125 psig or more	255.179	HIGH
Distribution line valves	255.181	HIGH
Vaults: Structural Design requirements	255.183	HIGH
Vaults: Drainage and waterproofing	255.189	HIGH
Protection against accidental overpressuring	255.195	HIGH
Control of the pressure of gas delivered from high pressure distribution systems	255.197	HIGH
Requirements for design of pressure relief and limiting devices	255,199	HIGH
Required capacity of pressure relieving and limiting stations	255.201	HIGH
Qualification of welding procedures	255.225	HIGH
Qualification of Welders	255.227	HIGH
Protection from weather	255.231	HIGH
Miter Joints	255.233	HIGH
Preparation for welding Inspection and test of welds	255.235 255.241(a),(b)	HIGH HIGH
Nondestructive testing-Pipeline to operate at 125 PSIG or more Welding inspector	255.243(a)-(e) 255.244(a),(b),(c)	HIGH HIGH
Repair or removal of defects	255,244(a),(b),(c)	HIGH
Joining Of Materials Other Than By Welding - General	255.273	HIGH
Joining Of Materials Other Than By Welding - Copper Pipe	255.279	HIGH
Joining Of Materials Other Than By Welding - Plastic Pipe	255,281	HIGH
Plastic pipe: Qualifying persons to make joints	255.285(a),(b),(d)	HIGH
Notification requirements	255.302	HIGH
Compliance with construction standards	255,303	HIGH
Inspection: General	255.305	HIGH
Inspection of materials	255,307	HIGH
Repair of steel pipe	255,309	HIGH
Repair of plastic pipe	255.311	HIGH
Bends and elbows	255.313(a),(b),(c)	HIGH
Wrinkle bends in steel pipe	255,315	HIGH
Installation of plastic pipe	255.321	HIGH
Underground clearance	255,325	HIGH
Customer meters and service regulators: Installation	255.357(d)	HIGH
Service lines: Installation	255.361(e),(f),(g),(h),(i)	HIGH
Service lines: Location of values	255.365(b)	HIGH
External corrosion control: Buried or submerged pipelines installed after July 31, 1971	255.455(d),(e)	HIGH
External corrosion control: Buried or submerged pipelines installed before August 1, 1971	255.457	HIGH
External corrosion control: Protective coating	255.461(c)	HIGH
External corrosion control: Cathodic protection	255.463	HIGH
External corrosion control: Monitoring	255.465(a),(e)	HIGH
Internal corrosion control: Design and construction of transmission line	255.476(a),(c)	HIGH
Remedial measures: General	255.483	HIGH
Reinedial measures: transmission lines	255.485(a),(b)	HIGH
Strength test requirements for steel pipelines to operate at 125 PSIG or more	255.505(a),(b),(c),(d)	HIGH
General requirements (UPGRADES)	255.553 (a),(b),(c),(f)	HIGH
Upgrading to a pressure of 125 PSIG or more in steel pipelines	255.555	HIGH
Upgrading to a pressure less than 125 PSIG	255,557	HIGH
Conversion to service subject to this Part	<u>255.559(a)</u>	HIGH
General provisions	255.603	HIGH
Operator Qualification	255.604	HIGH
Essentials of operating and maintenance plan	255.605	HIGH
Change in class location: Required study	255.609 255.614	HIGH
Damage prevention program		HIGH HIGH
Emergency Plans	255.615	
Customer education and information program	255.616	HIGH HIGH
Maximum allowable operating pressure: Steel or plastic pipelines		HIGH
Maximum allowable operating pressure: High pressure distribution systems	255.621	HIGH
Maximum and minimum allowable operating pressure: Low pressure distribution systems		
Odorization of gas	255.625(a),(b)	HIGH

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PARTS 255 / 261 MATERIALS

7 255 (27	UTOU
and the second	HIGH
	HIGH
255.736	HIGH
255.739(a),(b)	HIGH
255.743(a),(b)	HIGH
255.745	HIGH
255.751	HIGH
255.755	HIGH
255.756	HIGH
255.757	HIGH
255.807(d)	HIGH
255.809	HIGH
255.811(b),(c),(d),(e)	HIGH
255.813(b),(c),(d)	HIGH
255.815	HIGH
255.819(a)	HIGH
255,905	HIGH
255.911	HIGH
255.915	HIGH
255.917	HIGH
255.919	HIGH
255,921	HIGH
255.923	HIGH
255,925	HIGH
255,927	HIGH
255.931	HIGH
255.933	HIGH
255.935	HIGH
255.937	HIGH
255,939	HIGH
255,1003	HIGH
255.1003 255.1005	HIGH HIGH
255.1003 255.1005 255.1007	
255.1005	HIGH
	255.743(a),(b) 255.745 255.751 255.755 255.757 255.807(d) 255.811(b),(c),(d),(e) 255.813(b),(c),(d) 255.813(b),(c),(d) 255.819(a) 255.819(a) 255.915 255.915 255.917 255.921 255.922 255.923 255.933 255.935 255.937

HIGH RISK SECTIONS PART 261		
Operation and maintenance plan	261.15	HIGH
Leakage Survey	261.17(a),(c)	HIGH
Carbon monoxide prevention	261.21	HIGH
Warning tag procedures	261.51	HIGH
HEFPA Liaison	261.53	HIGH
Warning Tag Inspection	261.55	HIGH
Warning tag: Class A condition	261.57	HIGH
Warning tag: Class B condition	261.59	HIGH

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OTHER RISK SECTIONS PART 255		RISK
ACTIVITY TITLE	CODE SECTION	FACTOR
Preservation of records	255.17	OTH
Compressor station: Design and construction	255.163	OTH
Compressor station: Liquid removal	255.165	OTH
Compressor stations: Additional safety equipment	255.171	OTH
Vaults: Accessibility	255.185	OTH
Vaults: Sealing, venting, and ventilation	255.187	OTH
Calorimeter or calorimeter structures	255,190	OTH
Design pressure of plastic fittings	255.191	OTH
Valve installtion in plastic pipe	255.193	OTH
Instrument, control, and sampling piping and components	255.203	OTH
Limitations On Welders	255.229	OTH
Quality assurance program	255.230	OTH
Preheating	255.237	OTH
Stress relieving	255.239	OTH
Inspection and test of welds	255.241(c)	OTH
Nondestructive testing-Pipeline to operate at 125 PSIG or more	255.243(f)	OTH
Plastic pipe: Qualifying joining procedures	255.283	OTH
Plastic pipe: Qualifying persons to make joints	255.285(c),(e)	OTH
Plastic pipe: Inspection of joints	255.287	OTH
Bends and elbows	255.313(d)	OTH
Protection from hazards	255.317	OTH
Installation of pipe in a ditch	255.319	OTH
Casing	255.323	OTH
Cover	255.327	OTH
Customer meters and regulators: Location	255.353	OTH
Customer meters and regulators: Protection from damage	255.355	OTH
Customer meters and service regulators: Installation	255.357(a),(b),(c)	OTH
Customer meter installations: Operating pressure	255.359	OTH
Service lines: Installation	255.361(a),(b),(c),(d)	OTH
Service lines: valve requirements	255.363	OTH
Service lines: Location of valves	255.365(a),(c)	OTH
Service lines: General requirements for connections to main piping	255.367	OTH
Service lines: Connections to cast iron or ductile iron mains	255.369	OTH
Service lines: Steel	255.371	OTH
Service lines: Cast iron and ductile iron	255.373	OTH
Service lines: Plastic	255.375	OTH
Service lines: Copper	255.377	OTH OTH
New service lines not in use	255.379 255.381	OTH
Service lines: excess flow valve performance standards External corrosion control: Buried or submerged pipelines installed after July 31, 1971	255.455(a)	OTH
External corrosion control: Burled of submerged pipelines instaned after July 31, 1971 External corrosion control: Examination of burled pipeline when exposed	255.459	OTH
External corrosion control: Examination of burled piperine when exposed	255.461(a),(b),(d),(e),(f),(g)	OTH
Rectifier Inspection	255.465 (b),(c),(f)	OTH
External corrosion control: Electrical isolation	255.467	OTH
External corrosion control: Test stations	255.469	OTH
External corrosion control: Test lead	255.471	OTH
External corrosion control: Interference currents	255.473	OTH
Internal corrosion control: General	255.475(a),(b)	OTH
Atmospheric corrosion control: General	255.479	OTH
Atmospheric corrosion control: Monitoring	255.481	OTH
Remedial measures: transmission lines	255.485(c)	OTH
Remedial measures: Pipelines lines other than cast iron or ductile iron lines	255.487	OTH
Remedial measures: Cast iron and ductile iron pipelines	255.489	OTH
Direct Assessment	255.490	OTH
Corrosion control records	255.491	OTH
General requirements (TESTING)	255.503	OTH
Strength test requirements for steel pipelines to operate at 125 PSIG or more	255.505(e),(h),(i)	OTH

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Test requirements for pipelines to operate at less than 125 PSIG	255.507	OTH
Test requirements for service lines	255.511	OTH
Environmental protection and safety requirements	255.515	OTH
Records (TESTING)	255.517	OTH
Notification requirements (UPGRADES)	255.552	OTH
General requirements (UPGRADES)	255.553(d),(e)	OTH
Conversion to service subject to this Part	255.559(b)	OTH
Change in class location: Confirmation or revision of maximum allowable operating pressure	255.611(a),(d)	OTH
Continuing surveillance	255.613	OTH
Odorization	255.625(e),(f)	OTH
Pipeline Markers	255.707(a),(c),(d),(e)	OTH
Transmission lines: Record keeping	255.709	OTH
Distribution systems: Patrolling	255.721(b)	OTH
Test requirements for reinstating service lines	255.725	OTH
Inactive Services	255.726	OTH
A bandonment or inactivation of facilities	255.727(b)-(g)	OTH
Compressor stations: storage of combustible materials	255.735	OTH
Pressure limiting and regulating stations: Inspection and testing	255.739(c),(d)	OTH
Pressure limiting and regulating stations: Telemetering or recording gauges	255.741	OTH
Regulator Station MAOP	255.743 (c)	OTH
Service Regulator - Min & Oper, Load	255.744 (d),(e)	OTH
Distribution Line Valves	255.747	OTH
Valve maintenance: Service line valves	255.748	OTH
Regulator Station Vaults	255.749	OTH
Caulked bell and spigot joints	255.753	OTH
Reports of accidents	255.801	OTH
Emergency lists of operator personnel	255.803	OTH
Leaks General	255.805(a),(b),(e),(g),(h)	OTH
Leaks: Records	255.807(a),(b),(c)	OTH
Type 2	255.815(b),(c),(d)	OTH
Type 3	255.817	OTH
Interruptions of service	255.823(a),(b)	OTH
Logging and analysis of gas emergency reports	255.825	OTH
Annual Report	255.829	OTH
Reporting safety-related conditions	255.831	OTH
General (IMP)	255.907	OTH
Changes to an Integrity Management Program (IMP)	255.909	OTH
Low Stress Reassessment (IMP)	255.941	OTH
Measuring Program Effectiveness (IMP)	255.945	OTH
Records (1MP)	255.947	OTH
Records an operator must keep	255.1011	OTH

OTHER RISK SECTI	ONS PART 261	
High Pressure Piping - Annual Notice	261.19	OTH
Warning tag: Class C condition	261.61	OTH
Warning tag: Action and follow-up	261.63(a)-(h)	OTH
Warning Tag Records	261.65	OTH

Case 12-M-0192

ATTACHMENT IV

NET PLANT TARGETS

14307548.1

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation

Net Plant Targets for TME 6/30/2014 (\$000)

	<u>Electric¹</u> TME 6/30/2014
<u>Electric Net Plant arget⁻:</u>	
Plant In Service	1,262,196
Accumulated Reserve	(360,501)
Net Plant	901,695
NIBCWIP	17,638
Net Electric Plant Target	919,333 4
Depreciation Expense Target:	
Transportation Depreciation ³	1,991
Depreciation Expense ³	32,710
Electric Depreciation Expense Target	34,701 4

Gas Net Plant Target⁻:	<u>Gas¹</u> TME 6/30/2014
Plant In Service Accumulated Reserve	361,146 (117,428)
Net Plant	243,718
NIBCWIP	8,438
Net Gas Plant Target	252,156

Depreciation Expense Target:	
Transportation Depreciation ³	417
Depreciation Expense ³	8,999
Gas Depreciation Expense Target	9,416

¹ - Electric and Gas amounts include allocation of Common Plant.

- ² Electric and Gas Plant, Reserves and NIBCWIP are from Staff Exhibits ARP-3 and ARP-4, Schedule 7.
- ³ Electric and Gas Depreciation are from Staff Exhibits ARP-3 and ARP-4, Schedule 1.
- ⁴ Net Plant and Depreciation Target.