## BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

### NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

May 2, 2011

IN RE:	)	
	)	
PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF A NET METERING	)	DOCKET NO.
AND INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN	)	11-00003
KINGSPORT POWER COMPANY D/B/A AEP	)	
APPALACHIAN POWER AND MR. EUGENE M. FIELD	)	

#### AMENDED ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL OF SPECIAL CONTRACT

This matter came before Director Eddie Roberson, Director Kenneth C. Hill and Director Sara Kyle of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this Docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on March 28, 2011 for consideration of the *Petition for Approval of Special Contract* ("*Petition*") filed on January 4, 2011 by Kingsport Power Company d/b/a AEP Appalachian Power ("Kingsport" or "Company").

#### **BACKGROUND**

Kingsport, a public utility with its principal office in Kingsport, Tennessee, is engaged in the business of furnishing electric power services to retail customers in its service delivery area, which includes parts of Sullivan, Washington and Hawkins County, Tennessee, the City of Kingsport, Tennessee, and the Town of Mt. Carmel, Tennessee. Kingsport purchases all of its electric power requirements from Appalachian Power Company, under rates and charges that are subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The original agreement submitted with the *Petition* was not properly executed. A properly executed agreement was filed on February 7, 2011.

Mr. Eugene M. Field ("Customer") is a retail customer of Kingsport. The Customer intends to install a Net Metering Facility ("Facility")<sup>2</sup> for the purpose of offsetting all or part of the Customer's electricity requirements. The Special Contract details the terms and conditions of the agreement reached between Kingsport and the Customer regarding the operation of this Facility.

The Facility is designed and constructed to operate in parallel with Kingsport's electric transmission/distribution system without adversely affecting the operation of the equipment or service of Kingsport to other customers and without presenting safety hazards to Kingsport or the Customer. The Customer is responsible for all equipment and installation costs.

The Company is not obligated to accept energy from the Customer and may interrupt or reduce delivery of energy when necessary. The meter that will be installed on the Customer's premises will measure the flow of electricity in "both directions." The monthly charge<sup>3</sup> to the Customer will be calculated based on the positive net energy<sup>4</sup> consumed by the Customer. Should there be a negative net energy, the credit will be carried forward and credited against a positive energy usage in a subsequent billing period.

#### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

TRA Rule 1220-4-1-.07 states:

Special contracts between public utilities and certain customers prescribing and providing rates, services and practices not covered by or permitted in the general tariffs, schedules, or rules filed by such utilities are subject to supervision, regulation, and control by the Authority. A copy of such special agreements shall be filed, subject to review and approval.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Renewal Fuel Generator, 4 kW Photovoltaic solar panel array.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Agreement specifies that the Customer will pay standard tariff rates for the net energy consumed, to the extent that the net energy exceeds zero.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Consumption is greater than electricity generated by the Customer.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 amended Section 111(d) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act ("PURPA") of 1978 (16 U.S.C. Section 2621(d)). The amendment added five standards<sup>5</sup> for which the Authority considered the feasibility and appropriateness of implementation with respect to Kingsport.<sup>6</sup>

With respect to net metering,<sup>7</sup> the Authority declined to adopt the standard. At that time, none of Kingsport's customers had expressed an interest in net metering. Rather than expending the time, money and resources to design a one size fits all tariff without any expected customers, Kingsport committed to work with residential and small commercial customers interested in net metering to put a special contract into place. The TRA found this to be an efficient and sufficient method for addressing the Net Metering Standard.<sup>8</sup>

The voting panel assigned to this docket voted unanimously to approve the *Petition*. The panel based its approval on finding that the contract is beneficial to the Customer and in no way is detrimental to KPC or its other customers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The five new PURPA standards were Net Metering, Fuel Sources, Fossil Fuel Generation Efficiency, Time-based Metering and Communications, and Interconnection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See In re: Appropriateness of Implementation of PURPA Standard 11 (Net Metering), Standard 12 (Fuel Sources), Standard 13 (Fossil Fuel Generation Efficiency), Standard 14 (Time Based Metering and Communication) and Standard 15 (Interconnection) for Kingsport Power Company d/b/a AEP Appalachian Power, Docket No. 06-00010, Initial Order, p. 4 (August 10, 2006) (hereinafter "PURPA Standards Order").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Standard 11 - Net Metering: Each electric utility shall make available upon request net metering to any electric consumer that the electric utility serves. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "net metering service" means service to an electric consumer under which electric energy generated by that electric consumer from an eligible onsite generating facility and delivered to the local distribution facilities may be used to offset electric energy provided by the electric utility to the electric consumer during the applicable billing period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> PURPA Standards Order, p. 4.

The Company agreed to work with TRA Staff over the next sixty days to file a tariff with the Authority for net metering.

# IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Special Contract by and between Kingsport Power Company d/b/a AEP Appalachian Power and Mr. Eugene M. Field is approved.

Eddie Roberson, Director

Kenneth C. Hill, Director

Sara Kyle, Director