

ORDINANCE NO. 129-2017 (MS),
Second Reading

By Council Member Yasinow

An Ordinance authorizing the City to enter into the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (“NOPEC”) and authorizing the City Manager to execute and deliver the agreement establishing NOPEC and approving the bylaws of NOPEC; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Cuyahoga County, OH wishes to establish an a natural gas aggregation program pursuant to Section 4929.26, Ohio Revised Code (the “Gas Aggregation Program”), for the residents, businesses and other consumers located within the city, and for that purpose, to act jointly with any other city, village, township, municipal corporation, county or other political subdivision of the State of Ohio, as permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, by joining the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (“NOPEC”), the City will be able to act jointly with other member political subdivisions and thereby maximize the potential benefit of natural gas deregulation through group purchasing efforts; and

WHEREAS, in November 2001, the electors of the City approved the City’s authority to automatically aggregate gas in accordance with Revised Code Section 4929.26.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the City and its residents, including the natural gas consumers located within the City, to join the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (“NOPEC”) and to adopt the NOPEC Bylaws, for the purpose of establishing and implementing the the Gas Aggregation Program within the City.

SECTION 2. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Agreement Establishing the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council, as amended (the “NOPEC Agreement”). The NOPEC Agreement shall be substantially in the form presented to this Council attached hereto as Exhibit A, subject to such changes, insertions and omissions which are consistent with this Ordinance and are not substantially adverse to the City and as may be approved by the City Manager, and as to form by the Director of Law, which approval shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of the NOPEC Agreement.

SECTION 3. This Council hereby approves and adopts the Bylaws of NOPEC in the form attached as Exhibit B hereto.

SECTION 4. Notice of the passage of this Ordinance shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

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SECTION 5. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the necessity of having this aggregate program in effect to benefit the residents at the earliest time possible. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

CAROL ANN ROE, Mayor
President of Council

LAURIE SABIN
Clerk of Council

PASSED: January 2, 2018

ORDINANCE NO. 129-2017 (MS)

EXHIBIT A

AGREEMENT
ESTABLISHING THE
NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL

This AGREEMENT is made and entered into as of November 8, 2000, by and among the political subdivisions identified below:

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167 provides, in general, that the governing bodies of any two (2) or more political subdivisions may enter into an agreement establishing a regional council of governments for the purposes of promoting cooperative arrangements and agreements among its members and between its members and government agencies or private persons or entities, performing functions and duties which its members can perform and addressing problems of mutual concerns; and

WHEREAS, certain municipal corporations, counties, townships and regional councils of government of the State of Ohio have determined to enter into this Agreement Establishing the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council for the purpose of carrying out a cooperative program for the benefit of the members acting as governmental aggregators to arrange for the purchase of electricity by the electric customers in these political subdivisions served by the operating utility companies of FirstEnergy Corp. pursuant to the authority provided under Ohio Revised Code Section 4928.20, and promoting any other cooperative programs which may be approved, from time to time, in accordance with this Agreement and the Bylaws described below;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed by and among the municipal corporations, counties, townships and regional councils of government identified below, on behalf of whom this Agreement has been executed by their representatives in accordance with the authorizing resolution of each, that:

Section 1. Definitions.

As used in this Agreement and in the Bylaws the following words shall have the following meanings:

"Additional Program" means any other cooperative program the Council may establish under an Additional Program Agreement.

"Additional Program Agreement" means any agreement among some or all Members establishing an Additional Program in accordance with Section 5 hereof.

"Additional Program Costs" means, with respect to any Additional Program of the Council, all costs incurred by the Council or the Fiscal Agent of the Council, in connection with the activities and operations of that Additional Program, as defined in the corresponding Additional Program Agreement.

"Advisory Committee" means any committee established by the Board of Directors pursuant to the Bylaws to advise the Board of Directors or the Fiscal Agent with respect to the management and operation of any Program. The Board of Directors shall define the duties of each Advisory Committee.

"Aggregation Costs" means all costs incurred by the Council or by the Fiscal Agent in connection with the activities and operation of the Council for the Aggregation Program.

"Aggregation Fund" means the fund established and maintained by the Fiscal Agent of the Council as a separate fund pursuant to Section 7 of the Bylaws, into which the Fiscal Agent shall deposit any and all moneys contributed by the Members for Aggregation Costs of the Council.

"Aggregation Program" means the cooperative program for the benefit of the Members acting as governmental aggregators to arrange for the purchase of electricity by electric customers in the political subdivisions served by the operating companies of FirstEnergy Corp. pursuant to the terms of Ohio Revised Code Section 4928.20 and this Agreement.

"Agreement" means this agreement, as the same may be amended, modified, or supplemented in accordance with Section 8 hereof.

"Assembly" means the legislative body of the Council established pursuant to, and having those powers and duties enumerated in, the Bylaws.

"Bylaws" means the regulations adopted by the Council pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 167.04 and this Agreement, as the same may be amended, modified, or supplemented in accordance with Section 10 thereof, a form of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

"Council" means the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council established by this Agreement.

"Fiscal Agent" means the person or organization designated by the Members of the Council to receive, deposit, invest and disburse funds contributed by the Members for the operation of the Council and its Programs, in accordance with this Agreement, the Bylaws and any applicable Program Agreement.

"Fiscal Year" means the twelve (12) month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

"Member" means any municipal corporation, county, township and regional council of governments which pursuant to duly adopted legislation, has caused this Agreement to be executed in its name, which Member shall be listed on Exhibit B hereto, including any additional municipal corporation, county, township and regional council of governments which has caused this Agreement to be executed in accordance with Section 7 hereof, and has not withdrawn from the Council pursuant to this Agreement or the Bylaws.

"Program" means the Aggregation Program or any Additional Program.

Section 2. Name.

The name of the group composed of all Members shall be the "Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council".

Section 3. Representation of Members.

Each Member shall have one representative to the Assembly, who (i) in the case of municipal corporations, shall be the mayor or manager or an appointee of such officer, or (ii) in the case of counties or townships or regional councils of governments, shall be a member of its governing board or an officer chosen by such governing board.

Section 4. Adoption of Bylaws.

Within thirty (30) days following the effective date of this Agreement as determined pursuant to Section 11 hereof, the representatives shall meet for the purpose of adopting Bylaws. The affirmative vote of at least a majority of representatives of all Members shall be required for the adoption of the Bylaws, a form of which is attached as Exhibit A.

Section 5. The Aggregation Program: Additional Programs of the Council.

The Members will act jointly through the Council to establish and implement the Aggregation Program pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4928.20. Each Member has adopted legislation, and approval by the electors of each Member has been or will be obtained, authorizing the Aggregation Program. Upon certification of the Members by the PUCO, as may be applicable, the Council, on behalf of the Members, may effect the aggregation of the retail electrical loads located within the jurisdictions of the Members. The Council may negotiate and enter into all necessary contracts and take any other necessary and incidental actions to effect and carry out the purposes of the Aggregation Program for the benefit of the Members and their respective electricity consumers.

The Board of Directors shall oversee and manage the operation of the Aggregation Program and may adopt policies and procedures supplementing the general terms of this Agreement and the Bylaws.

The Board of Directors shall develop a plan of operation and governance for the Aggregation Program pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4928.20 to be adopted by each member.

The Council may establish, in addition to the Aggregation Program, such other Additional Programs as the Board of Directors may approve. Each Additional Program shall be established by an Additional Program Agreement among the Members of the Council whose governing bodies have determined to participate in the Additional Program and have approved an Additional Program Agreement. Each Additional Program Agreement shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors prior to execution by any Member.

Each Additional Program Agreement shall include but not be limited to provisions that:

- (A) Direct the Board of Directors concerning the management of the Additional Program and define matters which must be submitted to the participating Members for decision;
- (B) Establish procedures for budgeting Additional Program Costs and apportioning Additional Program Costs among the participating Members;
- (C) Establish one or more funds into which all monetary contributions for Additional Program Costs shall be deposited;
- (D) Determine the method and timing of inclusion of additional participating Members;
- (E) If determined to be necessary or desirable, appoint a Fiscal Agent for the Additional Program different from the Fiscal Agent for the Council; and
- (F) Determine the disposition, upon termination of the Additional Program, of any supplies, equipment, facilities or moneys held in connection with the operation of the Additional Program.

Section 6. Withdrawal of a Member.

- (a) Any Member wishing to withdraw from membership in the Council shall notify the Council in the manner described in Section 6(c) hereof and such withdrawal shall, except as otherwise provided in this Section 6, cause such Member's membership in the Council to be terminated. Such termination shall not be effective until (A) the end of the applicable two (2) or three (3) year opt-out period as to any electricity or natural gas aggregation program of the Council under which service is being provided to customers in the Member's community; and (B) such withdrawing Member has paid to the Council the Administrative Fee (as defined in Section 6(d) hereof), if applicable.
- (b) Any Member wishing to withdraw from participation in any Program of the Council, including any aggregation Program of the Council for electricity or natural gas, shall notify the Council in the manner described in Section 6(c) hereof. Such withdrawal from a Program, regardless of whether a member participates in only one program, shall be effective:
 - (i) At any time, without charge, as to a natural gas Program, if NOPEC is not enrolling natural gas customers in that Member's community or offering a natural gas Program for a Member participating in the Council's aggregation Program for natural gas; or

- (ii.) At any time, without charge, as to an electric Program, if NOPEC is not enrolling electric customers in that Member's community or offering an electric program for a Member participating in the Council's electric aggregation Program; or
- (iii.) Without charge, with at least six (6) months prior written notice before any two (2) or three (3) year opt-out period expires for an existing Council natural gas or electric Program under which service is being provided to customers in the Member's community; or
- (iv.) At any other time, with six (6) months written notice, but only if the Member pays NOPEC the Administrative Fee.

A withdrawal from participation in a Council Program is not a withdrawal from Membership as long as the Member continues to participate in at least one Council Program.

- (c) Any notification of withdrawal of a Member from Membership in the Council or from participation in a Council Program must include (i) a certified copy of duly adopted legislation of the governing body of the withdrawing Member authorizing such withdrawal; and (ii) a Fiscal Officer's Certificate evidencing the appropriation of funds sufficient to pay the Council the Administrative Fee, if applicable.
- (d) So long as the Council does not charge its Members a fee to be a Member of the Council, any Member withdrawing from a Program (unless such withdrawal is in compliance with Sections 6 (b)(i), (ii) or (iii)) shall, prior and as a condition to its withdrawal, pay the Council a withdrawal fee which shall not be a penalty for withdrawing from any Program(s) and which shall be calculated by the Council as the compensation that the Council would have received from the supplier(s) to the Program(s) as it relates to the withdrawing Member during a one (1) year period (the "Administrative Fee").
- (e) After withdrawal from membership in the Council, the withdrawing Member may not become a Member again until it has fully complied with the procedures contained in Section 7 of the Agreement.

Section 7. Inclusion of Additional Members.

Any municipal corporation, county or township in the State of Ohio may apply to become a Member of the Council by submitting an application in writing to the Board of Directors, accompanied by duly adopted legislation authorizing inclusion in the Council, execution of this Agreement and approval of the Bylaws. Prior to the Assembly's next meeting, the Board of Directors shall review the application and recommend to the Assembly whether the applicant municipal corporation, county, township or regional council of governments should be included in the Council. At the Assembly's next meeting, it shall act upon the Board of Directors'

recommendation by duly adopted resolution. The applicant municipal corporation, county, township, or regional council of governments shall be included in the Council and deemed a Member hereunder if its inclusion is approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the representatives in the Assembly and the applicant municipal corporation, county, township or regional council of governments executes the Agreement, and appropriates and remits to the Fiscal Agent an initial monetary assessment for Aggregation Costs in an amount recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by the Assembly. The applicant shall thereafter be a Member and be assessed its portion of the Aggregation Costs by the same method and using the same formula as any other member, in accordance with the Bylaws.

Section 8. Amendments.

This Agreement may be modified, amended, or supplemented in any respect not prohibited by law upon the approval of the modification, amendment or supplement by the representatives of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Members; and the amendment, modification, or supplement shall thereupon become binding upon all Members.

Section 9. Term of the Agreement.

It is the express intention of the Members that this Agreement shall continue for an indefinite term, but may be terminated as herein provided.

Section 10. Termination of the Agreement.

In the event that the governing bodies of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members, by duly adopted legislation, determine that this Agreement shall be terminated, the Board of Directors shall meet within thirty (30) days following its receipt of certified copies of the legislation. At that meeting, the Board of Directors shall determine the date upon which this Agreement and the activities and operations of the Council shall terminate and make recommendations to the Assembly with respect to any matter which must be resolved in connection with the termination of the Council and which is not addressed by this Agreement, the Bylaws, or any Program Agreement.

Upon termination of this Agreement, any Additional Program Agreement shall automatically terminate. After payment of all known obligations of the Council in connection with each Additional Program, any surplus remaining in any Additional Program fund shall be distributed among the participating Members in the manner provided in the Additional Program Agreement. After payment of all known obligations of the Council, any surplus remaining in the Aggregation Fund shall be distributed among the Members as determined by the Board of Directors.

No Member shall be required, by or under this Agreement or the Bylaws, by an amendment or otherwise, to pay any sum upon termination hereof, unless it shall have expressly agreed thereto.

Section 11. Effectiveness and Counterparts of the Agreement.

This Agreement shall not be effective until (i) the Agreement is signed by the representatives of not less than ten (10) Members as authorized by duly adopted legislation of the

governing body of each of those Members; and (ii) the voters of those Members have approved the Aggregation Program in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 4928.20. This Agreement may be signed in separate counterparts on behalf of any one or more than one, of the Members, without necessity for any one counterpart to be signed on behalf of all Members. Separately signed counterparts shall be filed with the Fiscal Agent and shall constitute one Agreement.

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ADOPTED THE 8th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2000

AMENDED THE 27th DAY OF JUNE, 2002

AMENDED THIS 13th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2008

AMENDED THIS 10th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015

NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL

By: _____
Ronald McVoy, Chairman

MEMBER:

By: _____

Its: _____

EXHIBIT B

BYLAWS

GOVERNING THE

NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, certain municipal corporations, counties, townships and regional councils of governments of the State of Ohio (each, a “Member”) entered into an Agreement Establishing the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (the “Agreement”) pursuant to Revised Code Chapter 167, for the purpose of carrying out the Aggregation Program pursuant to Revised Code Section 4928.20 and any Additional Programs which the Members of the Council may approve, from time to time, and which are authorized under the laws of the State; and

WHEREAS, Revised Code Section 167.04 requires and the Agreement provides that the Council shall adopt Bylaws designating the officers of the Council and the method of selection thereof, creating a governing board to act for the Council, appointing a fiscal officer and providing for the conduct of the Council’s business; and

WHEREAS, each Member has by duly adopted legislation authorized its representative to approve these Bylaws, and the representatives of the Members have met for the purpose of adopting these Bylaws in accordance with Revised Code Section 167.40 and Section 4 of the Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, the following provisions shall constitute the Bylaws of the Council:

Section 1. Definitions.

Any capitalized word or phrase used in these Bylaws and not otherwise defined herein, shall have the meaning given in Section 1 of the Agreement as the Agreement may, from time to time, be amended, modified, or supplemented in accordance with Section 8 thereof.

Section 2. Assembly.

The Assembly shall be the legislative body of the Council. The Assembly shall be composed of the representatives of the Members, who have been appointed pursuant to Section 3 of the Agreement. All representatives to the Assembly (exclusive of ex-officio members) shall serve without compensation.

An Assembly representative may designate another Assembly representative as a proxy at any meeting by delivering to the Chairman of the Council a written designation of that proxy.

- (A) Ex-officio Members of the Assembly. The Fiscal Agent of the Council shall be an ex-officio member of the Assembly and may attend all meetings of the Assembly, but shall not count for purposes of determining a quorum and shall not have a vote. In the event that the Council employs a person or persons to perform

the duties of the Fiscal Agent and/or Administrator in accordance with Section 4 and 5 of these Bylaws, the person or persons so employed as Fiscal Agent and/or Administrator of the Council each shall be ex-officio members of the Assembly and may attend all meetings of the Assembly, but shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum and shall not have a vote.

- (B) Officers. The officers of the Board of Directors shall be the officers of the Council and its Assembly and shall consist of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman who each shall be selected pursuant to Section 3 hereof. The Chairman (and in the Chairman's absence, the Vice-Chairman) shall preside at Assembly meetings. If for any reason the offices of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are vacant, the person serving as Executive Director, if any, shall preside as temporary Chairman until a Chairman is elected by the Board of Directors. If the Council does not have an Executive Director and the offices of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are vacant, the person serving as Fiscal Agent or his designee shall preside as temporary Chairman until a Chairman is elected by the Board of Directors.
- (C) Resolutions. A majority of all representatives to the Assembly (including proxies correctly presented to the Chairman) shall constitute a quorum to transact business except as otherwise provided in the Agreement or these Bylaws. Each representative (including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman) shall have one vote; provided, however, that when a matter is to be voted upon which is of concern to only one or more but not all Programs of the Council, only representatives of participating Members of those Programs shall be entitled to vote on that matter and only those representatives shall be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. All legislative action of the Assembly shall be by resolutions entered on its records. Except as otherwise provided in the Agreement, the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all of the representatives to the Assembly eligible to vote on a matter (not counting vacancies) shall be required for the enactment of every resolution. Unless otherwise specifically stated in the resolution, all resolutions shall be effective immediately upon enactment, subject to any authorizations or certifications required by the Revised Code to be made by the Fiscal Agent or the Members.
- (D) Meetings. The Assembly shall meet on the second Tuesday of each November and at such other times as may be required by the Chairman or as may be requested, in writing to the Executive Director, by any two (2) or more Directors. Written notice of each meeting shall be served by the Executive Director upon each Assembly representative not less than twenty-four (24) hours preceding the time for the meeting, and shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting and subject or subjects to be considered at the meeting. The requirements of and procedures for notice may be waived in writing by each representative and any representative shall be deemed conclusively to have waived such notice with respect to a meeting by his or her attendance at that meeting. At the request of the Chairman and with the approval of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors, the annual meeting of the Assembly may be rescheduled to such other

dates as may be so approved by the Board of Directors; provided, however, that actions required by this Agreement to be taken by the Assembly at its annual meeting are taken by the Assembly within thirty (30) days of the second Tuesday in November.

Pursuant to Revised Code Section 121.22(F), the Assembly shall by rule, establish a reasonable method whereby any person may determine the time, place, and purpose of its meetings. All meetings of the Assembly shall be open to the public, subject to the exceptions in Revised Code Section 121.22(G). The Assembly may, but need not, adopt other rules.

(E) Powers and Duties of Assembly.

- (1) At its annual meeting, the Assembly shall review the annual report of the Council, including but not limited to, the financial status of the Council's operation, operation of the Aggregation Program, and any Additional Program being considered.
- (2) At its annual meeting, the Assembly shall consider, upon submission by the Board of Directors, and thereafter modify, if necessary, and approve the annual appropriations of the Council for the next Fiscal Year based upon the estimate of Aggregation Costs and any Additional Program Costs determined pursuant to Section 8 hereof. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to revise the appropriations between Assembly meetings.
- (3) At its annual meeting, the Assembly shall select the members of the Board of Directors for the next Fiscal Year in accordance with Section 3 hereof.
- (4) The following matters shall be submitted to the Assembly and are subject to final approval by the Assembly: the annual appropriations of the Council for each Fiscal Year; selection of the Board of Directors; and such other matters of the Board of Directors or the Assembly may, from time to time, determine to be matters requiring approval by the Assembly.

Section 3. Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall be the policy making body of the Council.

- (A) Composition. Subject to the provisions of Section 3(B) below, the Board of Directors shall be composed of one Director representing each county with Members in the Council, and one Director in the case of a regional council of governments having at least one member of such council of governments participating in a NOPEC electric or natural gas program, each of whom shall be an Assembly representative of each respective county and of the regional council of governments and shall be elected by the Assembly representatives of each

respective county and of the regional council of governments, at the annual meeting of the Assembly, provided that the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the representatives to the Assembly of each representative county shall be required to elect any Director.

The Fiscal Agent of the Council shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and may attend all meetings of the Board of Directors but shall not have a vote. In the event that the Council employs a person or persons to perform the duties of Fiscal Agent and/or Administrator, in accordance with Section 4 and 5 of these Bylaws, the person or persons so employed as Fiscal Agent and/or Administrator shall each be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors but shall not count for purposes of determining a quorum and shall not have a vote.

- (B) Notwithstanding anything in this Section 3 to the contrary, the maximum number of Directors shall be twenty-one (21), and shall be constituted as follows: The state of Ohio shall be divided into five (5) regions, the Northeast Ohio Region, the Northwest Ohio Region, the Central Ohio Region, the Southwest Ohio Region and the Southeast Ohio Region, defined in the attached Exhibit A to these Bylaws. There shall be a limit of seventeen (17) Directors from counties located in the Northeast Ohio Region. There shall be a limit of (1) Director from the total number of Member counties located in each of the Northwest Ohio Region, the Central Ohio Region, the Southwest Ohio Region and the Southeast Ohio Region. Effective on and after November 15, 2016, a county or region must have one (1) or more Member(s) combined with collectively at least 2,500 electricity and/or natural gas accounts participating in NOPEC's electricity and/or natural gas program in such Members' communities in order to be eligible to elect a Director from such county or region. The rights of any Member of the Council as of November 15, 2016, shall be preserved and not be diminished, limited or abridged by the operation of this Section 3.
- (C) Terms of Office. Assembly representatives elected to serve on the Board of Directors at the first organizational meeting shall serve the following terms of office: Half of the members of the Board shall each serve a two-year term and the other half shall each serve a one-year term. Thereafter, any Assembly representative elected to serve on the Board of Directors shall serve a two (2) year term of office. If the number of members of the Board is increased as a result of an increase in the number of counties represented by the membership in the Council, then the terms of those additional Board members shall be set by the Board so that half, or as close as possible to half, of the members of the Board shall be elected every year. There shall be no limit to the number of terms to which a person may be elected or appointed. All members of the Board (exclusive of ex-officio members) shall serve without compensation.

In the event that a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, the remaining members of the Board of Directors shall meet and appoint an Assembly

representative to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the Assembly at which elections of Directors are held.

- (D) Meetings. The Board of Directors shall hold regular meetings not less than once per calendar quarter at such times as may be determined by the Board or the Chairman. Special meetings shall be held at such other times as may be requested by the Chairman. Written notice of each meeting shall be served by the Executive Director upon each Director not less than twenty-four (24) hours preceding the time for the meeting, and shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting and subject to be considered at the meeting. The requirements of and procedures for notice may be waived in writing by each Director and any Director shall be deemed conclusively to have waived such notice with respect to a meeting by his or her attendance at that meeting.
- (E) Attendance. Directors are expected to attend Board meetings. Any Director who is absent from three Board meetings without excuse during a twelve month period is automatically removed from the Board. The remaining Directors shall meet and appoint a person to fill the vacated seat until the next meeting of the General Assembly at which elections of Directors are held.
- (F) Officers. At its first meeting in each Fiscal Year, the Board of Directors shall convene and organize. The Chairman of the Board shall be elected to serve a one-year term by the Board of Directors from its members by majority vote of all its members. The Chairman whose term has expired shall preside as temporary Chairman until the Chairman is elected. In the absence of the prior Chairman, the prior Vice-Chairman shall be elected to serve a one year term by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of its members.
 - (1) Chairman. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Assembly. The Chairman's duties shall also include, but not be limited to: preparing agendas for each meeting of the Board of Directors and arranging for distribution of such agendas so that each Board member receives an agenda at least seven (7) days in advance of each regularly scheduled Board meeting and as soon as practical before any specially scheduled Board meeting; and presenting an annual report to the Assembly at its annual meeting, or distribution of such report to the Members, concerning the activities and operations of the Council. In the event of a tie on matters subject to a vote of the Board, the Chairman shall cast the tie-breaking vote.
 - (2) Vice-Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and the Assembly. The Vice-Chairman shall succeed to the office of the Chairman, should that office be vacated before the end of a term, and shall assist the Chairman in the discharge of his duties.

- (3) Executive Director. The Executive Director shall provide written notice to all members of the Board of Directors of all meetings of the Board in accordance with paragraph (D) of this Section. Minutes of all meetings of the Board shall be kept by the Executive Director and distributed to each member of the Board within thirty (30) days following each Board meeting. The Executive Director shall provide Assembly members with written notice of all Assembly meetings in accordance with Section 2 hereof. The Executive Director shall perform such other duties as the Chairman may request. If no Executive Director is hired, the above assignments will be performed by the Fiscal Agent. If the Board of Directors decides to hire a chief executive officer for the Council, then this person will be titled the Executive Director. The Board of Directors shall provide a job description for this position.
- (4) Fiscal Agent. The Board of Directors shall provide for the employment of a Fiscal Agent either by:
- (a) contracting with a Member, or
 - (b) hiring a person to perform the duties of the Fiscal Agent, who shall be the Treasurer. Separate Fiscal Agents may be hired to handle specific Programs or assigned to the Treasurer if such employee is hired. The Fiscal Agent shall receive and disburse all funds of the Council, prepare all necessary fiscal reports for the Board of Directors and the Assembly, and undertake all other financial transactions necessary to the work of the Council.

The Fiscal Agent of the Council shall obtain and keep in force a fidelity bond, in an amount determined by the Board of Directors and with a surety company approved by the Board of Directors, or, in lieu of a separate fidelity bond, the Board of Directors may direct the Fiscal Agent to continue and keep in force any existing fidelity bond the Fiscal Agent may have which the Board of Directors determines to be adequate. In either case, the Council shall be named as an insured on such bond and the amount thereof shall not be reduced without prior written consent of the Board of Directors.

The Fiscal Agent and the Executive Director may be held by the same person or by two different persons.

- (G) Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to:
- (1) Consider and approve any purchases of equipment, facilities, or services for the Council; provided that the cost thereof is within the Aggregation Costs approved by the Assembly pursuant to Section 8 hereof.

- (a) Make recommendations to the Assembly concerning any matter relating to the Council and its Programs, including but not limited to:
 - (b) amendments to or modifications of the Agreement and Bylaws,
 - (c) appropriations of the Council,
 - (d) each Member's share of Aggregation Costs or any Additional Program Costs, and
 - (e) disqualification of Members.
- (2) Direct the Fiscal Agent concerning any disbursements from the Aggregation Fund.
- (3) By affirmative vote of a majority of Board members and upon certification to the Board by the Fiscal Agent that the proposal is within the limits of the Council's resources, amend the budget and appropriations of the Council.
- (4) Approve the inclusion of additional Members into the Council.
- (5) Enter into any and all necessary and incidental contracts to facilitate the aggregation the retail electric loads within the jurisdiction(s) of the Members.
- (6) Enter into any and all necessary and incidental contracts to carry out all Programs of the Council.
- (7) Enter into any and all necessary and incidental contracts to carry out all Programs of the Council.

Section 4. Advisory Committees.

One or more Advisory Committees may be appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the Board of Directors in the management of any Program of the Council. The members of an Advisory Committee shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. Each Advisory Committee shall perform the duties directed by the Board of Directors.

Each Advisory Committee shall elect from its membership a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who shall each serve for a term of one year or such shorter period of time as the Advisory Committee may be in existence. The Chairman shall preside at all Committee meetings and prepare the agenda for each meeting following consultation with the Executive

Director or Board of Directors. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall preside at Committee meetings. The Vice-Chairman shall succeed to the office of the Chairman, should it be vacated before the end of a term, and shall assist the Chairman in the discharge of the Chairman's duties.

Each Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning any matter referred to it by the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Employees and Consultants.

The Board of Directors may employ the Fiscal Agent and the Executive Director for the Council. In addition, the Board of Directors may employ other persons and may contract for the services of independent contractors, consultants, legal counsel, or experts as the Board of Directors deems necessary or appropriate for the proper operation and administration of the Council and its Programs. Any staff employed by the Council shall be determined by the Board of Directors to have the educational background and work experience necessary to discharge the duties assigned to that person by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall establish the salaries, benefits, and work and disciplinary rules for the Council's staff and shall direct the hiring and discharge of that staff. The Board of Directors of the Council may designate the Executive Director to be responsible for the supervision of the Council's staff. The salaries and independent contractors, consultants, legal counsel, or experts shall be paid either as Aggregation Costs or Additional Program Costs from their respective accounts as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Equipment and Facilities.

The Council may purchase, lease, or otherwise provide supplies, materials, equipment, and facilities as it deems necessary and appropriate to carry out the Programs of the Council. The Council shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code with respect to the procedures for bidding and letting of contracts for the acquisition, repair, or improvement of its facilities, equipment, and supplies. The Fiscal Agent of the Council shall, at the direction of and on behalf of the Board of Directors, enter into all contracts or leases for supplies, materials, equipment, or facilities of the Council.

Section 7. Aggregation Fund.

The Aggregation Fund shall be established and maintained by the Fiscal Agent of the Council separate and apart from all other funds of the Council which may be under the custody of the Fiscal Agent. Separate funds will be established for Additional Programs of the Council. All funds of the Council (Aggregation and Additional Program Funds) shall be subject to the laws of the State concerning the investment and management of public funds, particularly Revised Code Chapter 135, and shall be the responsibility of the Fiscal Agent.

The Fiscal Agent of the Council shall deposit in the Aggregation Fund the amounts received from the Members for Aggregation Costs of the Council and any interest earned by the Aggregation Fund. Disbursements may be made from the Aggregation Fund by the Fiscal Agent

at the direction of the Board of Directors or the Assembly for any proper purpose of the Council, including but not limited to payment of Aggregation Costs, costs incurred in connection with the establishment of the Council, salaries of any persons employed to carry out the functions related to the Aggregation Program, fees and expenses of the Fiscal Agent, consultants and attorneys, and payment of other operating expenses.

The Fiscal Agent of the Council shall maintain records which identify all receipts of the Aggregation Fund by source. The Fiscal Agent shall maintain records which account for all disbursements from the Aggregation Fund. The Fiscal Agent shall make monthly reports to the Board of Directors on or before the twentieth (20th) day of each month concerning all receipts and disbursements from the Aggregation Fund.

Section 8. Estimate of Aggregation Costs; Payments by Members.

On or before the annual meeting of the Assembly the Board of Directors shall: (a) submit to the Assembly a written estimate of the Aggregation Costs and any Additional Program Costs for the next Fiscal Year of the Council, and (b) if a fee is to be collected, provide the Assembly and each Member with an estimate of each Member's share of the Aggregation Costs and any Additional Program Costs. Any Additional Program Costs shall be apportioned among the participating members as provided in any Additional Program Agreement. Any Aggregation Costs of the Council shall be apportioned among the Members in the manner determined by the Board of Directors. The estimates shall be presented in enough detail so that the Assembly can determine their sufficiency.

The Assembly shall consider the estimates and accept or modify the same. If an assessment or fee is to be paid by the Members to the Aggregation Fund or any Additional Program Fund, the Fiscal Agent shall deliver to the Members, the estimated appropriation for the next Fiscal Year and each Member's share of such costs. Each Member shall include its share of the Aggregation Costs and any Additional Program Costs in its appropriations (pursuant to Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code). Each member shall thereafter remit its share of Aggregation Costs and any Additional Program Costs to the Fiscal Agent.

If the aggregate contributions made pursuant to that estimated budget prove to be insufficient to pay the Aggregation Costs and any Additional Program Costs for that Fiscal year of the Council, the Board of Directors shall direct the Fiscal Agent to promptly notify in writing each Member of any additional Aggregation Costs and Additional Program Costs, the amount of any deficiencies and each Member's share of those additional costs, all as determined by the Board of Directors, whereupon each Member shall appropriate (pursuant to Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code) the amount stated in the notice and remit the same to the Fiscal Agent within forty-five (45) days after receipt of that written notice.

Failure by a Member to appropriate and remit any of its share of the Council Costs and Additional Program Costs pursuant to these Bylaws within sixty (60) days after the same shall become due shall be deemed a withdrawal by such Member pursuant to Section 6 of the Agreement unless the Member has petitioned the Board of Directors for an extension of time for

payment and the Board of Directors has, by resolution, approved an extension to a date certain and the Member has remitted at least twenty-five percent of its share of the Aggregation Costs and any Additional Program Costs to the Fiscal Agent.

Under no circumstances shall the Fiscal Agent have the power to incur obligations for Aggregation Costs and Additional Program Costs in an amount which exceeds the total unspent amount appropriated for Aggregation Costs or any Additional Program Costs, respectively, and remitted to the Fiscal Agent by the Members pursuant to this Agreement, except as may be permitted by law.

Section 9. Conduct of Meetings.

All meetings provided for in these Bylaws shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised unless otherwise directed by these Bylaws or by resolution of the Assembly, the Board of Directors, or any Advisory Committee with respect to the meetings of each of those bodies. The Chairman of each of those bodies shall be the parliamentary procedure officer and his or her decisions with respect to matters of parliamentary procedure shall be final.

Section 10. Amendments.

These Bylaws may be modified, amended or supplemented in any respect upon approval of the modification, amendment or supplement by at least two-thirds of the Members' representatives, and the approved amendment, modification, or supplement shall only thereupon become binding upon all Members.

Section 11. Initial Operation of the Council.

In the first Fiscal Year of the Council's operation, actions required by these Bylaws to be taken at the annual meeting of the Assembly or the first meeting of the Board of Directors shall be taken as soon as practical upon the establishment of the Council.

ADOPTED this 29th day of November, 2000.

AMENDED this 13th day of November, 2008.

AMENDED this 10th day of November, 2015.

AMENDED this 15th day of November, 2016.

NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL

Exhibit A

The definition of the Northeast Ohio Region, the Northwest Ohio Region, the Central Ohio Region, the Southwest Ohio Region and the Southeast Ohio Region as used in these Bylaws shall mean the counties identified in each Region as follows on the attached map:

Northeast Ohio Region:

Ashtabula
Columbiana
Cuyahoga
Erie
Geauga
Huron
Lake
Lorain
Mahoning
Medina
Portage
Richland
Sandusky
Seneca
Stark
Summit
Trumbull

Northwest Ohio Region:

Allen
Auglaize
Defiance
Fulton
Hancock
Hardin
Henry
Lucas
Mercer
Ottawa
Paulding
Putnam
Van Wert
Williams
Wood

Central Ohio Region:

Ashland
Coshocton
Crawford
Delaware
Fairfield
Franklin
Holmes
Knox
Licking
Marion
Morrow
Muskingum
Perry
Tuscarawas
Wayne
Wyandot

Southwest Ohio Region:

Adams
Brown
Butler
Champaign
Clark
Clermont
Clinton
Darke
Fayette
Greene
Hamilton
Highland
Logan
Madison
Miami
Montgomery
Pickaway
Pike
Preble
Ross
Shelby
Union
Warren

Southeast Ohio Region:

Athens
Belmont
Carroll
Gallia
Guernsey
Harrison
Hocking
Jackson
Jefferson
Lawrence
Meigs
Monroe
Morgan
Noble
Scioto
Vinton
Washington

