

# SINGLE OWNER-MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS CUSTOMER NET ENERGY BILLING AGREEMENT (Facilities of Less Than 5 MW)

#### **BETWEEN**

#### **VERSANT POWER**

AND

CUSTOMER NA	ME:
DATED: _	
Contract Date:	
	Contract date to be filled in by the utility.

### VERSANT POWER

## CUSTOMER NET ENERGY BILLING AGREEMENT

# <u>INDEX</u>

	<u>Page</u>
ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS	3
ARTICLE II: QUALIFICATIONS	5
ARTICLE III: TERM AND EFFECTIVE DATE	5
ARTICLE V: INTERCONNECTED OPERATION	7
ARTICLE VI: METERING	8
ARTICLE VII: ACCESS	8
ARTICLE VIII: BILLING ADJUSTMENTS	8
ARTICLE IX: GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS	9
ARTICLE X: ASSIGNMENT	9
ARTICLE XI: BREACH; TERMINATION	10
ARTICLE XII: DISPUTE RESOLUTION	10
ARTICLE XIII: LIMITATION OF LIABILITY	10
ARTICLE XIV: WAIVER	10
ARTICLE XV: MODIFICATION	10
ARTICLE XVI: NOTICES	11
ARTICLE XVII: APPLICABLE LAWS	11
ARTICLE XVIII: INTEGRATION	11
ARTICLE XIX: SEVERABILITY	12
ARTICLE XX: CAPTIONS	12

# VERSANT POWER CUSTOMER NET ENERGY BILLING AGREEMENT

#### Facility of Less Than 5 MW

Project Name:	
This AGREEMENT is dated	, and is between Versant Power (the
"Company"), a Maine corporation having its of	fice and principal place of business in Bangor,
Maine, and (the "C	Customer") located at
·	
Chapter 313 of the Rules and Regulation requires that transmission and distribution utilit	ns of the Maine Public Utilities Commission ies engage in annualized net energy billing

The Customer has represented to the Company that it meets the qualification and use standards of Chapter 313 and has requested that the Company engage in annualized net energy billing with the Customer as described in Chapter 313.

arrangement with customers who meet the qualification and use standards of Chapter 313.

The Parties therefore agree as follows:

#### **ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS**

As used herein, the terms below are defined as follows:

"<u>Bi-directional Meter</u>" means a single meter that is capable of measuring both (i) the kilowatt-hours delivered to the Company's system from the Facility and (ii) the kilowatt-hours that flow from the Company's system to the Facility.

"Billing Period" is the period of time (approximately thirty (30) days) between the recordings of metered energy delivered to the Customer and received from the Facility.

"Certificate of Completion" is the form adopted by the Company, in accordance with Chapter 324 of the Commission Rules, for electrician certification that the facility is fully operable and meets the requirements of State and Local electrical codes for interconnection to the Transmission & Distribution electric system.

"Commercial Operation Date" means the date on which the Project is commercially operational, placed into service, and interconnection operations have commenced. The Commercial Operation Date cannot be before the date as stated on the Certificate of Completion or other written permission to operate or authority to interconnect the Facility provided by the T&D Utility.

"Commission" is the Maine Public Utilities Commission established under Title 35-A of the Maine Revised Statutes or any succeeding state regulatory agency having jurisdiction over public utilities.

"Competitive Electricity Provider" is a marketer, broker, aggregator, or any other entity selling electricity to the public at retail in Maine.

"Construction period" has the meaning set forth in Section III of this agreement.

"Credits" are the number of kilowatt-hours by which Out Energy has exceeded In Energy during any Billing Period.

"<u>Delivery Period</u>" is the period of time beginning on the Commercial Operation Date and ending on a date up to 20 years after the Commercial Operation Date, during which the Company applies Bill Credits in accordance with this Agreement.

"Effective Date" has the meaning set forth in Article III of this Agreement

"Excess Usage" is the quantity expressed in kilowatt-hours determined by subtracting Unused Credits from In Energy. If Unused Credits exceed In Energy, Excess Usage is equal to zero (0).

" <u>Facili</u> 1	' is all of the Customer's generating plant and equipment, including the Customer's
kW	generator located at,
as more fully i	ntified in the Interconnection Agreement between the Company and the Customer.

"In Energy" is the kilowatt-hours delivered to each of the Customer's accounts listed in Exhibit 1 or Exhibit 2 from the Company's system as measured by the In Meter(s) or a Bidirectional Meter during the Billing Period.

"In Meter(s)" are the metering equipment used to measure the kilowatt-hours that flow from the Company's system to the each of the Customer's accounts listed in Exhibit 1 or Exhibit 2.

"Net Energy" is the difference between the kilowatt-hours delivered by the Company to the Customer and the kilowatt-hours delivered from the Facility to the Company over the same time period and determined as if measured by a single meter capable of registering the flow of electricity in two directions.

"Net Energy Billing" is a billing and metering practice under which the Customer is billed on the basis of Net Energy over a Billing Period taking into account accumulated Credits from previous Billing Periods.

"Out Energy" is the kilowatt-hours delivered to the Company's system from the Facility as measured by the Out Meter(s) or bi-directional meter during the Billing Period.

"Out Meter" are the metering equipment used to measure the kWh delivered from the facility to the Company's system.

"Party" means either the Company or Customer and "Parties" means both the Company and Customer.

"Rules" are such Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Commission as shall be in effect from time to time. References in this Agreement to particular provisions of the Rules shall be construed to refer to analogous provisions of any succeeding set of Rules promulgated by the Commission, notwithstanding that such provisions may be designated differently.

"<u>Standard Offer Provider</u>" is a provider(s) of standard offer service chosen pursuant to Chapter 301 of the Rules.

"<u>Unused Credits</u>" are Credits that, in accordance with this Agreement, remained when Excess Usage was determined for any Billing Period. Unused Credits do not include any Credits that have been eliminated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (C) of Article IV.

#### **ARTICLE II: QUALIFICATIONS**

It is the essence of this Agreement that the Facility: (i) use a renewable fuel or technology as specified in 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3210(2) (B-3), (ii) have an installed capacity of less than 5.0 MW, (iii) be located in the service territory of the Company and (iv) be used primarily to offset part or all of the Customer's own electricity bills.

Customer agrees that it shall at all times during the term of this Agreement meet the qualifications set forth in the preceding paragraph.

#### ARTICLE III: TERM AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement has two periods that together comprise the Term of the Agreement.

The Company shall issue this Agreement within 10 Business Days of either

- (i) the execution of the Interconnection Agreement for the Facility, or
- (ii) for a Facility that does not have an interconnection agreement but has an interconnection queue position, and the Customer has provided to the Company documentation that it has attained Financial Interest for at least ninety percent (90%) of the Facility capacity, output, or other form of participation or subscription. The Company shall execute this Agreement within fifteen (15) Business Days of receiving this Agreement signed by the Customer. This Agreement is effective when fully executed by the Parties (the "Effective Date").
- (a) The Construction Period commences on the Effective Date and ends on the Commercial Operation Date. Customer shall provide notice to the Company a minimum of ten (10) Business Days in advance of the Commercial Operation Date. The Construction Period must be completed within 24 months of the Effective Date. Customer may seek an extension of the Construction Period for an interconnection-related delay or circumstances beyond Customer's control, or as consented to by the Company, with consent not being unreasonably withheld.
- (b) The Delivery Period of the Agreement, with respect to applying Bill Credits, begins on the Commercial Operation Date of the Facility and continues through the twentieth (20th) anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date.

#### ARTICLE IV: NET ENERGY BILLING

The following methodology will be utilized by the Company in determining Customer's payment obligations for (i) transmission and distribution service provided by the Company and (ii) electric generation service provided by either the Standard Offer Provider or the Customer's Competitive Electricity Provider. If the Customer's Competitive Electricity Provider provides the Customer with a separate bill for generation service, the Company shall not in any way be responsible for computing the charges or performing any netting for this separate generation service bill. The initial application of Credits for customers under this Agreement may require two Billing Periods to implement. In order to facilitate billing under this Agreement, the utility reserves the right to place all customers listed in Exhibit 1 or Exhibit 2 in the same billing cycle.

#### A. Excess Generation

If during a Billing Period, Out Energy is greater than zero (0), then the Facility and any secondary usage accounts will be credited appropriately, based upon an allocation as determined by the Customer. Excess generation from the Facility will be percent allocated to all of the Customer's secondary accounts set forth in Exhibit 1 or on a cascading basis according to the priority order in the Facility as selected by the Customers as identified in Exhibit 2.

Unused Credits will be calculated for each designated account listed in Exhibit 1 using the percentage allocation. If the cascading credit allocation is elected, any Unused credits will be stored with the Facility account. Credits, once accrued on an account, cannot be moved to another account. Unused credits are increased by the value of Credits, determined for that Billing Period, and that increased value, in accordance with paragraph (C) Unused Credits of this Article IV, will remain for possible future application. It is the Customer's sole responsibility to review and request modification to the information in either Exhibit 1 or Exhibit 2. The customer has the right to request a change in the excess energy percentage allocation or cascading order to the facility and secondary account(s) by submitting a request to the Company in accordance with the notice provisions set forth in Article XIV below. Any such changes in fixed or cascading allocations to existing customers listed on Exhibit 1 or 2 shall be made prospectively beginning with the next Billing Period following an accepted request. The Company will provide notice to Customer whether any such request has been accepted by the Company or the basis for any denial of such request.

#### B. Excess Usage

If during a Billing Period, In Energy is greater than zero (0), then Excess Usage for that Billing Period will be calculated. If Excess Usage is greater than zero (0), then for the Facility and any secondary account at the conclusion of that Billing Period: (i) kilowatt-hour usage will equal the value of Excess Usage and (ii) Unused Credits are equal to zero (0). If Excess Usage is equal to zero (0), then for the Facility and secondary accounts at the conclusion of that Billing Period: (i) kilowatt-hour usage is equal to zero (0) and (ii) Unused Credits are reduced by the value of In Energy, determined for that Billing Period, and that reduced value, in accordance with paragraph (C) Unused Credits of this Article IV, will remain for possible future application.

#### C. Unused Credits

As customers are invoiced each month, current month Credits are first applied and then, if applicable, Unused Credits are drawn from the customer's bank. In applying banked Unused Credits to a Customer account, the oldest Unused Credits will always be drawn from the account bank first. Unused Credits expire on a rolling 12-month basis. Accordingly, any Unused Credits that remain in the Customer account bank will be eliminated after the twelfth month and will not be applied against customer invoices. The Customer will receive no compensation for these eliminated Unused Credits.

#### D. Charges

Net Energy Billing only applies to kilowatt-hour usage charges. Any other charges that are applicable to the Customer and that are recovered by the Company other than through kilowatt-hour usage charges will be collected by the Company and are the responsibility of the Customer. For example, the Customer is responsible for all other charges, which are applicable and recovered by the Company either through fixed amounts or units other than kilowatt-hours.

#### E. Modifications to Credit Allocations

Only the Customer's contact person or designee identified in Article XVI has the authority to request modification to this agreement and all such requests must be transmitted by the acceptable means identified in Article XVI. The contact person is required to inform the Company of any requested modifications to the agreement, including any changes to the allocation designations contained in Exhibit 1or Exhibit 2, soon as possible. Requested changes that affect the application of Credits for newly added customers under this agreement will be made on a prospective basis only and may require two Billing Periods to implement.

#### F. Application of kWh and Financial Credits

If an individual customer participates in one or more Net Energy Billing arrangements and/or also receives financial credits in any Distributed Generation arrangement, the customer's consumption will first be reduced by any applicable kWh credits before financial credits are applied. Separate banks will be created for kWh and financial credits and each will expire based upon the terms applicable to each type of contract under which the credits are acquired.

#### ARTICLE V: INTERCONNECTED OPERATION

This Agreement governs solely the terms and conditions under which the Company will engage in net energy billing with the Customer. It <u>does not</u> authorize the Customer to interconnect the Facility with the Company's electric system. The terms and conditions of interconnected operation shall be set forth in a separate Interconnection Agreement between the Customer and the Company. The Customer <u>may not operate</u> the Facility in parallel with the Company's system until the Company provides you with written notification specifically stating that all of the requirements for interconnection have been satisfied.

#### **ARTICLE VI: METERING**

The Company will install metering equipment as necessary 1) to accomplish the billing as described in Article IV: Net Energy Billing of this Agreement and 2) to collect the applicable State of Maine sales tax on the In Energy. In the event that the Company determines that it is necessary to separately record In Energy and Out Energy, the Company will bear the additional cost of metering equipment to separately record In Energy and Out Energy.

In the event that the Customer requests that the Company install nonstandard metering equipment or metering equipment which is in addition to the metering that the Company determines is necessary to accomplish Net Energy Billing, the Company will install such nonstandard or additional metering as quickly as practicable in the normal course of the Company's business as provided in the Terms and Conditions § 12.9 of the Company's Electric Rate Schedule. The Company will charge its incremental costs of owning, maintaining, and installing such nonstandard or additional metering to the Customer. The Company will charge its incremental billing costs resulting from such nonstandard metering equipment installed at the Customer's request. The Company, at its sole discretion, may require advance payment from the Customer for such nonstandard or additional metering.

The Company will own, maintain, and read all metering equipment necessary for Net Energy Billing. If the Out Meters are not at the same voltage as the Point of Delivery, the metered energy quantities shall be adjusted to the delivery voltage as provided in the Terms and Conditions § 12.8 of the Company's Electric Rate Schedule, as may be amended from time to time, filed with and accepted by the Commission.

#### **ARTICLE VII: ACCESS**

The Company shall have the right of access to Customer's premises, as well as Facility, and to all property furnished by the Company installed therein, at all reasonable times during which service is provided to the Customer, and on its termination, for the purpose of reading meters, or installation, inspection and repair of equipment used in connection with its energy, or removing its property, or for any other proper purposes.

The Customer, at their expense, shall maintain suitable and safe access to all equipment owned by the Company on the Customer's property. If the Customer's property is secured by a gate, chain or similar device, the Customer shall install the device to allow installation of a Company owned lock for access to this property.

#### ARTICLE VIII: BILLING ADJUSTMENTS

In the event that billing adjustments are required as the result of meter inaccuracies or any other error, the Company and the Customer will work together to correct the billing. Company and Customer shall work together in good faith to make the billing adjustment as soon as practicable and shall make every attempt to correct the billing within one (1) Billing Period from identification of the need for the billing adjustment.

If Credits allocated were found to be lower than they should have been, the Company will perform a true-up and allocate the previously un-allocated Credits during the next Billing Period. The Credits will expire 12 months from the date they were allocated to the Customer(s).

If Credits allocated were found to be higher than they should have been, the Company will perform a true-up and reduce the Credits during the next Billing Period by the previously overallocated Credit amount.

If the Company and Customer cannot resolve the billing adjustment to their mutual satisfaction, they may commence the dispute resolution process in Article XII below.

#### ARTICLE IX: GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS

The Customer shall obtain all governmental authorizations and permits required for operation of the Facility and shall maintain all required governmental authorizations and permits required for the Facility during the term hereof. The Customer shall provide copies of any such authorizations, permits and licenses to the Company upon request.

#### ARTICLE X: ASSIGNMENT

This Agreement shall not be assigned, pledged or transferred by either party without the written consent of the non-assigning Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld: provided that either Party may assign this Agreement to an affiliate of said Party without prior written consent of the non-assigning Party. All assignees, pledgees or transferees shall assume all obligations of the Party assigning the Agreement. If this Agreement is assigned without the written consent of the non-assigning Party (except as otherwise provided above), the non-assigning Party may terminate the Agreement.

If the Customer is a closely-held corporation, then for the purposes of this Article a sale of all or substantially all of the voting securities of the Customer to a third party shall be deemed an assignment of this Agreement.

If this Agreement is assigned from the Customer to another party, by virtue of any insolvency proceeding, then the assignee, within 90 days of assumption of this Agreement, shall reimburse the Company for all reasonable expenses incurred by the Company in conjunction with such insolvency proceeding.

The Company and the Customer agree that in determining whether any withholding of consent to an assignment shall be reasonable, it shall be understood that it is of the essence of this Agreement that (i) the Customer deliver its energy from the Facility as defined herein, (ii) the assignee be a transmission and distribution customer of the Company, and (iii) the assignee shall have entered into a valid Interconnection Agreement with the Company. For that reason, the Company may reasonably refuse to consent to any assignment of this Agreement that would result in a change either in the type or the location of the Facility contemplated in this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE XI: BREACH; TERMINATION

In the event of breach of any terms or conditions of this Agreement, if the breach has not been remedied within 30 days following receipt of written notice thereof from the other Party (provided that, if the breaching Party has commenced and is diligently pursuing efforts to cure such breach, then such 30-day period shall be extended until the earlier of (i) 30 additional days or (ii) end of diligent efforts to cure the breach). In the event of any proceedings by or against either Party in bankruptcy, insolvency or for appointment of any receiver or trustee or any general assignment for the benefit of creditors, the other Party may terminate this Agreement.

If the Customer increases the capability or the capacity of the Facility to exceed 4.999 MW, this Agreement shall immediately terminate. The Company shall not be liable to the Customer for damages resulting from a termination pursuant to this paragraph.

If the Customer's generating equipment produces zero (0) kilowatt-hours during any period of twelve (12) consecutive Billing Periods after the Commercial Operation Date, the Company may terminate this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE XII: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the event of any dispute between the Parties hereto as to a matter referred to within this Agreement or as to the interpretation of any part of this Agreement, the Parties shall refer the matter to their duly authorized representatives for resolution. Should such representatives of the respective Parties fail to resolve the dispute within ten (10) days from such referral, the Parties agree that any such dispute shall be referred to the Commission for resolution. To the extent that the Commission declines to resolve the dispute or lacks the jurisdiction to do so, the Parties may pursue any rights or remedies available at law or in equity and consistent with this Agreement in connection with the dispute.

#### ARTICLE XIII: LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Each Party's liability to the other Party for any loss, claim, injury liability, or expense, including reasonable attorneys' fees, relating to or arising from any act or omission in its performance of this Agreement, shall be limited to the amount of direct damage actually incurred.

#### ARTICLE XIV: WAIVER

Any waiver at any time by either Party of its rights with respect to a default under this Agreement, or with respect to any other matters arising in connection with this Agreement, shall not be deemed a waiver with respect to any subsequent default or other matter.

#### ARTICLE XV: MODIFICATION

Except as explicitly authorized herein, no modification to this Agreement shall be valid unless it is in writing and signed by both Parties hereto.

#### ARTICLE XVI: NOTICES

All notices, requests and other communications hereunder (herein collectively a "notice" or "notices") shall be transmitted by the Party transmitting the communication, via first class mail, courier, overnight delivery service, or by electronic mail addressed to the other Party as follows:

To the Company:

Versant Power
P.O. Box 932
Bangor, ME 04402-0932
Attn: LEGAL NOTICES
Email: legalnotices@versantpower.com
To Customer:
Contact Person Name:
Contact Person Address:
Contact Person Town, State Zip:
Contact Person Telephone:
Email Contact Person:

The Company and Customer, upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other in accordance with this Article, may change a name or address to which notices under this Agreement must be sent.

#### ARTICLE XVII: APPLICABLE LAWS

This Agreement is made in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine and shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Maine, notwithstanding any choice of law or rules that may direct the application of the laws of another jurisdiction.

If, after the execution of this Agreement, any right or obligation of either Party under this Agreement is materially altered as the result of any change in applicable laws or regulations, the Parties agree to negotiate in good faith to amend this Agreement to conform to the revised law or regulation. If the Parties are unable to come to an agreement as to the appropriate amendment of this Agreement in the event of a change in applicable laws or regulations then the Party whose right or obligation is materially altered as a result of such change in law or regulations may terminate this Agreement by providing the other Party with sixty (60) days prior written notice, in which case the Parties respective rights and obligations will governed by the applicable revised law or regulation after such termination of this Agreement.

#### **ARTICLE XVIII: INTEGRATION**

The terms and provisions contained in this Agreement between the Customer and the Company constitute the entire Agreement between the Customer and the Company and shall

supersede all previous communications, representations, or agreements, either verbal or written, between the Customer and the Company with respect to the Facility and this Agreement.

#### **ARTICLE XIX: SEVERABILITY**

The invalidity of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision set forth herein.

#### **ARTICLE XX: CAPTIONS**

All indexes, titles, subject headings, section titles, and similar items are provided for the purpose of reference and convenience and are not intended to be inclusive or definitive or to affect the meaning of the contents or scope of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this instrument to be executed, all as of the day and year first above written.

WITNESS	CUSTOMER NAME
_	By:
WITNESSES:	VERSANT POWER
	By:
	Paul Miller
	<b>Its:</b> Vice President, Engineering and Operations

**Exhibit 1 - Percentage Allocation** 

THE SUM OF ALL PERCENTAGES MUST EQUAL 100%.		
FACILITY	ACCOUNT NO.	% ALLOCATION
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%
		%

Note: The complete customer list only needs to be provided prior to the Commercial Operation Date of the Facility and can be included with the Net Energy Billing Application.

**Exhibit 2 – Cascading Allocation** 

FACILITY	ACCOUNT NO.	CASCADE ORDER
Secondary 1		1
Secondary 2		2
Secondary 3		3
Secondary 4		4
Secondary 5		5
Secondary 6		6
Secondary 7		7
Secondary 8		8
Secondary 9		9
Secondary 10		10
Secondary 11		11

Note: The complete customer list only needs to be provided prior to the Commercial Operation Date of the Facility and can be included with the Net Energy Billing Application.