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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
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March 20, 2019

Secretary of the Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, Third Floor, Suite 314
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey, 08625-0350
ATTN: Secretary Aida Camacho-Welch

Supd
3/27/19

RE: PSE&G CEF-EE Filing, BPU Docket Nos. GO18101112 and EO18101113

To the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities:

Utilidata provides utilities and commercial and industrial customers energy optimization software that is deployed from the substation to the grid edge. Our optimization platform leverages smart grid investments to promote energy efficiency, improve power quality, and enable integration of more renewables and distributed energy resources.

Volt/VAR Optimization: Universal Access to Energy Efficiency

The initial use case of our platform is volt/VAR optimization (VVO), which we have deployed in over 10 states for some of the largest utilities in the country. PSE&G's CEF-EE filing includes a VVO pilot that will be the first step in driving significant energy savings for PSE&G's customers.

Utilidata's platform consistently produces 3% to 4% energy savings by optimizing power flow conditions on the grid. This savings is enhanced by an additional 1% to 2% when AMI data is integrated, giving our software platform even greater visibility into power flow conditions at the edge of the grid.

Efficiency savings generated by VVO go directly into the pockets of all PSE&G customers on circuits where VVO is deployed. There is no need to engage customers or require that they spend some of their disposable income on efficiency upgrades. VVO is universally accessible energy efficiency, available to everyone no matter their socio-economic status. This makes VVO a uniquely beneficial form of energy efficiency, and one that can only be deployed by the distribution utility.

The Value of Utility Pilots

Utility pilots are how innovative technology companies like Utilidata grow our business. Without such pilot programs, we would not be able to test and scale software that makes the grid smarter and more efficient.

VVO represents a perfect partnership between a utility and a smaller innovative company. Utilidata's team of software engineers and data scientists work in a dynamic software company environment, but their innovations can only find their way onto the grid, and begin benefiting customers, in partnership with a utility.

For PSE&G, partnering with companies like Utilidata allows it to get more out of its grid modernization investments, and drive more value for its customers. Creating a platform that helps

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J. Lampert, Esq. *P. Krogman, Esq.* *P. Van Brand, Esq.*
E. X. Lee, Esq. *A. Haddad, Esq.* *S. Peterson*



innovative companies deliver new customer value is a critical role of the utility. This pilot will allow PSE&G to fully understand how VVO works on its distribution grid before moving to system-wide deployment.

We urge the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to approve PSE&G's proposed VVO pilot to help bring universal access to energy efficiency to PSE&G's customers.

Sincerely,

Jess Melanson
President & Chief Operating Officer
Utilidata, Inc.
jmelanson@utilidata.com