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March 31, 2017

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL  
ORIGINAL BY HAND DELIVERY**

Mark D. Marini, Secretary  
Department of Public Utilities  
One South Station, 5th Floor  
Boston, MA 02110

*Re: Petition of Cape Light Compact for an Advisory Ruling Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §8 and 220 C.M.R. §2.02 and 2.08*

Dear Secretary Marini:

On behalf of the Cape Light Compact (the "Compact"), enclosed for filing please find a petition for an advisory ruling to clarify that the Compact does not need to file a revised aggregation plan if it undergoes an internal reorganization that transfers the Compact's operations from an inter-governmental organization under G.L. c. 40, §4A to a joint powers entity under G.L. c. 40, §4A1/2.

Also enclosed are a Notice of Appearance and a check in the amount of \$100.00 to cover the filing fee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you require further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Audrey A. Eidelman

AAE/drb  
Enclosures

cc: Kevin F. Penders, Esq., General Counsel (via email only)  
Margaret T. Downey, Cape Light Compact Administrator (via first class mail)

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**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

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Petition of the Towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable,  
Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis,  
Edgartown, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich,  
Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown,  
Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, West Tisbury, Wellfleet,  
and Yarmouth, acting together as the Cape Light  
Compact for an Advisory Ruling Regarding  
G.L. c. 164, §134(a)

D.P.U. 17-\_\_\_\_

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**PETITION FOR AN ADVISORY RULING  
BY THE CAPE LIGHT COMPACT**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §8 and 220 C.M.R., §§2.02 and 2.08, the towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Edgartown, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, West Tisbury, Wellfleet, and Yarmouth, and the counties of Barnstable and Dukes, acting together as the Cape Light Compact (the “Compact”), hereby request that the Department of Public Utilities (the “DPU” or the “Department”) issue an advisory ruling to clarify that the Compact does not need to file a revised aggregation plan if it undergoes an internal reorganization that transfers the Compact’s operations from an inter-governmental organization under G.L. c. 40, §4A to a joint powers entity under G.L. c. 40, §4A1/2 (the “Cape Light Compact JPE”).

Solely for the purposes of seeking this advisory ruling, the Compact assumes that: (1) all of the individual municipal members of the Compact that are currently authorized to administer

the Compact's aggregation plan approved in its original form in D.T.E. 00-47 and in its revised and updated form in D.P.U. 14-69 (the "Aggregation Plan") elect to join the Cape Light Compact JPE; (2) the organizational structure of the Compact remains substantially similar to that outlined in D.P.U. 14-69; (3) the operations of the Compact remain substantially similar to those outlined in D.P.U. 14-69; (4) all contracts of the Compact are assigned to the Cape Light Compact JPE, including, but not limited to, any retail electric supply agreements and energy efficiency program vendor agreements; and (5) the Cape Light Compact JPE will administer the Cape Light Compact Energy Efficiency Plan approved by the Department in D.P.U. 15-166.

## **II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

### **A. Compact Organization and Purpose.**

The Compact is a governmental aggregator under G.L. c. 164, §134 ("Section 134") and consists of the 21 towns in Barnstable and Dukes Counties, as listed above, as well as the two counties themselves. It was originally formed in 1997 and is organized through a formal Inter-Governmental Agreement signed by all of the towns, as well as Barnstable and Dukes counties, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §4A, as amended from time to time by the Compact Governing Board (the "IGA"). The IGA was most recently updated in November 2015 and is enclosed as Attachment A. The Compact maintains a business office at the Barnstable County Complex, 3195 Main Street, Open Cape Building, Barnstable, Massachusetts 02630, but will be relocating its office on or about July 1, 2017.

In April 2000, the Compact entered into an Administrative Services Agreement with one of its members, Barnstable County (the "County"), to document the provision of certain administrative and fiscal management services to be provided by the County. Since that time,

the County provided these services and has acted as the employer of record for Compact staff. As discussed in Section II(E), *infra*, the County's provisions of fiscal and administrative services to the Compact will terminate on June 30, 2017.

The purposes of the Compact include, among other things: (1) to provide the basis for aggregation of all consumers on a non-discriminatory basis; (2) to negotiate the best terms and conditions for electricity supply and transparent pricing; (3) to utilize and encourage renewable energy development to the extent practicable through contract provisions, demonstration projects and state mandated system benefit charges for renewable energy; and (4) to administer an energy efficiency plan that advances consumer awareness and the adoption of a wide variety of energy efficiency measures. IGA, Article I.

**B. The Compact's Power Supply Program.**

The Compact obtained approval for its original Aggregation Plan in D.T.E. 00-47 (August 10, 2000). The Department issued a separate order, D.T.E. 00-47-A (December 8, 2000) regarding the opt-out notices to be sent to Compact customers. In 2001, the Department approved the Compact's plan to offer a default power supply pilot program. D.T.E. 01-63 (October 23, 2001; March 22, 2002). The Compact operated a default power supply pilot program until 2005, when the Compact commenced an all-requirements power supply program under a form of competitive electric supply agreement approved by the Department in D.T.E. 04-32 (May 4, 2004). The Compact has continuously operated its all-requirements power supply program since March 1, 2005, when the standard offer service rate in the Commonwealth expired.

**C. The Compact's Energy Efficiency Program.**

In D.T.E. 00-47-C (April 6, 2001)<sup>1</sup>, the Department determined that the Compact's energy efficiency plan was consistent with state energy efficiency goals and authorized the Compact to receive and expend moneys from the demand-side management systems benefits charges collected by the local electric distribution company. Since 2001, the Compact has implemented an energy efficiency plan in accordance with G.L. c. 164, §134(b) and, since 2008, G.L. c. 25A, §§19, 21. The Compact's current 2016-2018 statewide energy efficiency plan was approved by the Department in D.P.U. 15-166 (January 28, 2016).

**D. The Compact's Revised Aggregation Plan.**

On August 27, 2013, the Department issued a letter to the Compact requesting that the Compact review its Aggregation Plan specifically to: (1) determine whether the Compact should file a revised Aggregation Plan to reflect current structure and operations; (2) consider removing obsolete references; and (3) to comply with applicable laws, regulations and Department precedent, as well as any directives in the Department's decision in D.P.U. 12-124, the City of Lowell's Petition for Approval of Municipal Aggregation Plan. On April 3, 2014, the Compact filed its revised and updated Aggregation Plan for review and approval by the Department, which the Department docketed as D.P.U. 14-69.

In early May 2015, the Department issued an order approving the Compact's revised and updated Aggregation Plan (the "Order") and asked the Compact to file a revised updated Aggregation Plan consistent with the Department's Order. *Cape Light Compact*, D.P.U. 14-69 (May 1, 2015). Later that month, the Department approved the Compact's final revised updated Aggregation Plan. *Cape Light Compact*, D.P.U. 14-69-A (May 18, 2015). The Compact's current Aggregation Plan is enclosed as Attachment B.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to an administrative error, there is no docket numbered D.T.E. 00-47-B.

**E. The Compact's Transition to a New Fiscal Agent and Plan for Internal Reorganization.**

In 2016, the County notified the Compact that it no longer wished to provide fiscal and administrative services to the Compact under the existing Administrative Services Agreement. The County expressed specific concerns about liability for Compact contracts and for certain employment benefits associated with acting as the employer of record for the Compact's staff. The Compact and the County engaged in discussions over the course of 2016 to address the County's concerns and considered entering into an amended Administrative Services Agreement. The County and the Compact were unable to reach agreement and therefore mutually elected to terminate the County's provision of administrative and fiscal services so that the Compact could transition to a new service provider. In December 2016, the County and the Compact entered into a Termination and Transition Agreement that will expire at the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2017). By its terms, this agreement terminated the Administrative Services Agreement between the County and the Compact.

During 2016, the Legislature considered and enacted Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, An Act Modernizing Municipal Finance and Government (the "Act"). Section 20 of the Act established a new section of the general laws authorizing joint powers entities, G.L. c. 40, §4A½ (the "Joint Powers Statute"). Through adoption and execution of a joint powers agreement ("JPA"), governmental units may create a separate "Joint Powers Entity" which is a body politic and corporate. The Joint Powers Statute authorizes the Joint Powers Entity to, among other things, sue and be sued, execute contracts, receive and expend funds, borrow money and act as a public employer. Importantly, the Joint Powers Statute expressly provides that the members of the Joint Powers Entity will not be liable for the acts of another participating governmental unit or the entity itself.

This new Joint Powers Statute expressly addresses several of the concerns that have been raised over the years by various entities regarding the Compact's inter-governmental agreement structure under G.L. c. 40, §4A (the "Inter-Governmental Agreement Statute"). The Compact's Governing Board thus determined that a Joint Powers Entity would provide an appropriate vehicle for the smooth and efficient transfer of its fiscal administration and employees. In addition, the Governing Board determined that the Compact could reorganize and fully operate through a Joint Powers Entity to take advantage of the express authorities and liability protection afforded by the Joint Powers Statute.

Towards this end, the Compact reached out to several of its members to begin consideration of an internal reorganization to operate as a Joint Powers Entity. The Compact's counsel consulted with counsel for a majority of the Compact's members and drafted a JPA. The JPA is enclosed as Attachment C.

**F. The Joint Powers Agreement.**

The JPA is very similar to the IGA, with the addition of certain provisions that specifically address the new authorities set forth in the Joint Powers Statute (e.g., liability of members, additional powers, public employer status, etc.). The JPA also contains some additional organizational provisions of a corporate nature (e.g., indemnity and insurance) and modifies or clarifies certain provisions of the IGA (e.g., quorum requirements, executive committee membership, etc.). A bulleted summary of the general differences between the IGA and the JPA is set forth in Attachment D.

**G. Timing of Transfer of Operations to Cape Light Compact JPE.**

If all Compact municipal members have executed the JPA by the end of June 2017, the Compact intends to fully operate as a Joint Powers Entity on July 1, 2017 in order to align with

the start of the next fiscal year.<sup>2</sup> If not all of the Compact's municipal members have taken up the JPA by such time, the Compact will transfer its fiscal administration from the County to the Joint Powers Entity on July 1, 2017 and continue to operate under its current IGA until the remaining municipal members have executed the JPA or until such time as otherwise determined by the Compact's Governing Board.

As discussed in more detail below, the internal reorganization will not change any of the core operations of the Compact – it intends to continue to operate its power supply aggregation, consumer advocacy and energy efficiency programs with no interruption in service to the Compact's customers. Contracts in the name of the Compact at the time that the Joint Powers Entity becomes the full operational arm of the Compact (including power supply contracts and energy efficiency vendor contracts) will be assigned to the Joint Powers Entity.

### **III. STANDARD OF REVIEW**

The Department has discretion to issue an advisory ruling pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §8 and 220 C.M.R. §2.08. The advisory ruling may apply to any person, property or factual situation of any statute or regulation enforced or administered by the Department. *NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company*, D.P.U. 16-108 at 12 (2017); *USGen New England, Inc.*, D.T.E. 98-07 at 7 (1998); *Littleton Electric Light Department*, D.P.U. 96-11 at 3 (1996).

In issuing an advisory ruling, the Department will not resolve a specific legal issue, but rather it will render “an opinion about the legal effect and impact of a statute, rule or regulation administered by the Department.” D.P.U. 16-108 at 13. The ruling is not binding on the

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<sup>2</sup> The Compact's auditor recommends that, to the extent feasible, any transition of funds occur at the end of the County's fiscal year in order for the County and the Compact to better account for the termination and transition.



petitioner or the Department, although the Department as a matter of general practice will not take action against a party relying in good faith on an advisory ruling. *Id.* at 13 and n. 11.

#### **IV. LEGAL PRINCIPLES AND STATUTE IN QUESTION**

A municipality or any group of municipalities acting together within the Commonwealth is authorized to aggregate the electrical load of consumers within its boundaries. G.L. c. 164, §134(a). A town may initiate the process to aggregate by a majority vote of town meeting or town council. *Id.* Two or more towns may, as a group, initiate a process jointly by a majority vote of each particular municipality. *Id.* Under this construct, the initial vote approves initiating the municipal aggregation process, but it does not approve a particular municipal aggregation *plan*. *Id.*; D.P.U. 14-69 at 30 (the municipal aggregation statute is silent on process a municipality must follow to approve a particular plan). The municipal aggregation statute provides for development and Department approval of aggregation plans as follows:

Upon an affirmative vote to initiate said process, a municipality or group of municipalities establishing load aggregation pursuant to this section shall, in consultation with the department of energy resources, pursuant to section 6 of chapter 25A, develop a plan, for review by its citizens, detailing the process and consequences of aggregation. Any municipal load aggregation plan established pursuant to this section shall provide for universal access, reliability, and equitable treatment of all classes of customers and shall meet any requirements established by law or the department concerning aggregated service. Said plan shall be filed with the department, for its final review and approval, and shall include, without limitation, an organizational structure of the program, its operations, and its funding; rate setting and other costs to participants; the methods for entering and terminating agreements with other entities; the rights and responsibilities of program participants; and termination of the program. Prior to its decision, the department shall conduct a public hearing.

G.L. c. 164, §134(a).

In its review of an aggregation plan, the Department determines “whether a municipal aggregation plan is consistent with the requirements of law relating to the procurement of electric

supply and energy services for aggregated retail customers in competitive markets.” D.P.U. 14-69 at 17. The Department’s standard of review is specific to those areas of the law relating to aggregation – the set of laws within the Department’s general administrative expertise. *Id.* at 17-18. It does not conduct a review to consider whether an aggregation plan and program comply with *all substantive bodies of law. Id.*

Under this limited scope of review for an aggregation plan, the Department does not exert general regulatory authority over municipalities or entities formed under the Inter-Governmental Agreement Statute. *Id.* at 12. In its review of the Compact’s Aggregation Plan, the Department *expressly chose not to address* claims relating to the Compact’s compliance with various requirements of the Inter-Governmental Agreement Statute or claims regarding the validity of the Compact’s contracts. *Id.* at 25, n. 33 (noting the Department has no jurisdiction to review such claims).

In addition, the Department has acknowledged that the Compact conducts certain activities authorized by its IGA that are not solely in respect of the municipal aggregation (e.g., joint municipal energy procurement) and that a review of such activities is outside the scope of the Department’s review under G.L. c. 164, §134(a). *Id.* at 12. In fact, the Department specifically requested that the Compact remove from its Aggregation Plan references to the Compact’s negotiation of electric supply agreements to serve municipal electric loads that were not part of the Compact’s municipal aggregation program. *Id.* at 12, n. 14.

With an approved plan, a municipality or group of municipalities is authorized to, among other things:

[G]roup retail electricity customers to solicit bids, broker, and contract for electric power and energy services for such customers. Such municipality or group of municipalities may enter into agreements for services to facilitate the sale and purchase of electric energy and other related services. Such service agreements

may be entered into by a single city, town, county, or by a group of cities, towns, or counties.

*Id.* Municipalities may continue to contract for such services in accordance with their approved aggregation plan without seeking additional approval from the Department. *City of Lowell*, D.P.U. 12-124 at 52 (November 27, 2013). The Department does not have authority to review post-implementation matters such as a municipal aggregation’s actual rates or executed electric supply agreements as part of its review and approval of an aggregation plan. D.P.U. 14-69 at 14.

It is a well-settled precept of statutory construction that words and phrases shall be construed according to their plain meaning and that statutes should be interpreted under the common and approved usage of the language. *Sullivan v. Brookline*, 435 Mass. 353, 360 (2001); G.L. c. 4, §6, cl. 3. Section 134 contains no requirement that municipal aggregators must file revised aggregation plans. G.L. c. 164, §134(a). There is no language in Section 134 that, according to its plain meaning, evinces any legislative intent that municipal aggregators file revised aggregation plans. *Id.* The Department acknowledges that the plain language of Section 134 does not address the requirements for filing a revised aggregation plan. D.P.U. 14-69 at 29.

The *Department* has determined that a municipality must revise its municipal aggregation plan and file such plan for Department approval *only when* the municipality “seeks to deviate from its approved plan, or if due to changes in the law, regulations, the competitive supply market, or other circumstances the approved plan no longer accurately describes the operations of the municipal aggregation program.” D.P.U. 14-69 at 29; D.P.U. 12-124 at 52 (emphasis added). The Department has noted that certain potential changes to the Compact’s operations such as changes to adjust the amount and specific uses of its operational adder may not require filing a revised plan because the Aggregation Plan still contains “an accurate description of the organizational structure of the Compact’s funding.” D.P.U. 14-69 at 52.

The Compact interprets the Department's requirement regarding the filing of revised plans be in the context of a *material* deviation in *the aggregation operations* (e.g., a material change in matters of universal access, reliability, equitable treatment of all customer classes, etc.). A transition to a new organizational form, under the facts presented herein, does not rise to this level of material deviation in aggregation operations.

## **V. THE COMPACT'S REQUEST AND APPLICATION OF LEGAL PRINCIPLES**

The Compact seeks an opinion from the Department that its internal reorganization from an inter-governmental organization under the Inter-Governmental Agreement Statute to a Joint Powers Entity under the Joint Powers Statute does not require the Compact to file a revised Aggregation Plan for Department review. For the reasons set forth below, the Compact believes that Section 134 and the Department's interpretation of its scope of authority to review municipal aggregation plans under Section 134, support this opinion.

### **A. Section 134 Does Not Govern the Organizational Authority of a Municipal Aggregator.**

Section 134 is silent on the form of organization or entity that a group of municipalities may use to operate an aggregation program. G.L. c. 164, §134. Although the Department makes reference to the Compact's IGA in its approval order for the Aggregation Plan, the Department did not approve the Compact's decision to organize under the IGA or approve the IGA itself. D.P.U. 14-69. The Department has made clear that it does not have general regulatory authority over entities formed under the Inter-Governmental Agreement Statute. D.P.U. 14-69 at 12, n. 16.

Similarly, the Compact believes the Department does not have general regulatory authority over entities organized under the Joint Powers Statute. *Id.* The only change the

Compact is proposing is to its organizational authority (transitioning from an IGA in accordance with the Inter-Governmental Agreement Statute to a JPA in accordance with the Joint Powers Statute – akin to a change in its corporate form). The Compact understands that the Joint Powers Statute was enacted as a way to enhance the Inter-Governmental Agreement Statute. Its transition to a Joint Powers Entity is intended to take advantage of these enhanced organizational authorities, and not intended to materially alter its operations as a municipal aggregator. Given that there will be no change in control or in any of the core operations set forth in the Aggregation Plan (see discussion in Sections V(B) – (E) below), the Compact submits that its internal reorganization in accordance with the Joint Powers Statute does not constitute a deviation from its approved Aggregation Plan and neither Section 134 nor the Department’s determination in D.P.U. 12-124 requires the Compact to present a revised Aggregation Plan to the Department.

**B. All Municipal Members of the Compact will Join the Cape Light Compact JPE.**

The municipal members of the Compact are currently in the process of taking up the votes by their respective governing bodies to join the Cape Light Compact JPE. Currently, ten of the Compact’s 21 municipal members have approved joining the Cape Light Compact JPE and executing the JPA. To effectuate the reorganization, the Compact will assign or otherwise transfer its functions to the Cape Light Compact JPE, as discussed in Section V(C), below. Thus, when all municipal members join the Cape Light Compact JPE, there will be no need to change any aspect of the Compact’s approved power supply or energy efficiency operations because there will be no change in the Compact’s service territory and no interruption in service to customers.

In addition, it is important to note that no member municipality is seeking to *initiate* the process of aggregation through this internal reorganization of the Compact, and thus (other than as may be required by a municipal charter to approve execution of the JPA), no town meeting or town council votes are required to maintain compliance with Section 134. G.L. c. 164, §134(a); D.P.U. 14-69 at 29-30. Each municipal member of the Compact already has the requisite approval and votes from town meeting or town council in accordance with Section 134 to act as a municipal aggregator. See D.T.E. 00-47; D.P.U. 14-69.

Although Dukes County and the County are parties to the IGA, the counties are not municipal aggregators, as Section 134 does not authorize counties to aggregate their electric loads. For this reason, the Compact's Aggregation Plan does not include Barnstable and Dukes counties as aggregators and the Department's approval of the Compact's Aggregation Plan is not in regard to the two county members of the Compact.<sup>3</sup>

**C. The Organizational Structure of the Cape Light Compact JPE will be Substantially Similar to the Compact's Organizational Structure.**

The Compact understands that the Joint Powers Statute was intended to augment G.L. c. 40, §4A. As such, the JPA is, in effect, an enhanced IGA. All of the core components of the IGA remain in the JPA. The organizational structure outlined in Section 2 of the Compact's Aggregation Plan will not change. The only change to the organizational chart in Section 2 of the Aggregation Plan is that a new Business Officer employee is required by the Joint Powers Statute.<sup>4</sup> JPA, Article IX(H).

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<sup>3</sup> To note, under the JPA, the County and Dukes County may participate as limited members of the Cape Light Compact JPE, with no voting rights on matters concerning aggregated power supply, energy efficiency plans and programs or other such matters that are committed by law to municipal aggregators. The two counties may appoint a representative to attend Cape Light Compact JPE Governing Board meetings but these representatives are not Directors of the Governing Board and do not count towards a quorum for meeting or voting purposes.

<sup>4</sup> The Joint Powers Statute also requires that the Treasurer of the Joint Powers Entity *not be* a member of the Cape Light Compact JPE Governing Board. G.L. c. 40, §4A½.

The JPA provides for voting rights and inclusion of the Cape Light Compact JPE Governing Board in matters of planning, analysis and participation in programs. JPA, Article IV, Article V(A). Like under the IGA, the Cape Light Compact JPE Governing Board is made up of one representative appointed by each of the member municipalities, as well as an alternate representative that each member may appoint. *Id.* at Article V(B). And, just as with the Compact Governing Board, the Cape Light Compact JPE Governing Board will be responsible for establishing the policies of the Cape Light Compact JPE, except with respect to those powers reserved to the member municipalities by law or the JPA. *Id.* at Article V(A). Finally, like the Compact Governing Board, the Cape Light Compact JPE Governing Board and its officers will continue to be responsive and responsible to consumers and Boards of Selectmen and Town Managers/Town Councils. *See generally*, JPA.

**D. The Operations of the Cape Light Compact JPE will be Substantially Similar to the Compact's Operations.**

The Compact does not intend to change its general operational structure. The only change to the operational units described in Section 2 of the Aggregation Plan is that the County will no longer serve as the Compact's procurement agent or fiscal agent.<sup>5</sup> The Cape Light Compact JPE will either perform these services directly as authorized by the Joint Powers Statute, or it will contract for such services. JPA, Article IX(M). The Department has made clear that its scope of review for an aggregation plan under Section 134 does not include a review of new contracts or service agreements entered into by the aggregation. *City of Lowell*, D.P.U. 12-124 at 52.

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<sup>5</sup> In addition, the County will no longer be the employer of record for Compact staff.

*All core operational aspects of the Compact described in Section 2 of the Aggregation Plan will remain unchanged upon reorganization and operation as a Joint Powers Entity. For example:*

- The power supply and energy efficiency goals will remain the same and are incorporated in the JPA. JPA, Article II.
- The Cape Light Compact JPE will operate the power supply program in the same manner as outlined in the Compact's Aggregation Plan.
- The Cape Light Compact JPE will administer the statewide three-year energy efficiency investment program in the same manner as set forth in the Aggregation Plan.
- There will be no change in program funding – the Cape Light Compact JPE will be funded in the same manner as set forth in the Aggregation Plan. *See* JPA, Article 10(B) (describing program funding in the same manner as set forth in the Aggregation Plan).

*Moreover, there will be no change in the substantive components of the aggregation program.* Specifically, there will be no change in the operations set forth in Sections 5-11 of the Aggregation Plan, which address, respectively: the methods for entering and terminating agreements with other entities; ratesetting and other costs to participants; the power supply program's universal access; equitable treatment of all classes of customers; reporting; reliability; and rights and responsibilities of program participants. There will also be no change in the alternate information disclosure strategy. The Department has already determined that the Compact's Aggregation Plan meets the substantive requirements of Section 134 and is consistent with the Department's rules and regulations regarding information disclosure. D.P.U. 14-69 at 44-49. The internal reorganization will not affect any component of the Aggregation Plan considered by the Department to reach this conclusion.



**E. The Cape Light Compact JPE will assume all Contractual Commitments and Operations of the Compact through Documented Assignments or Transfers.**

The Compact is currently in the process of developing a Transition, Asset Transfer and Succession Plan for its transition to operations under the Cape Light Compact JPE. On or before the operational transfer date, the Cape Light Compact JPE will execute all documents and perform all acts necessary to transfer all programs, operational functions, tangible and intangible assets (including intellectual property), contracts and records of the Compact to the Cape Light Compact JPE so that the Cape Light Compact JPE is the legal successor to the Compact.

Accordingly, there will be no interruption in service under the Compact's power supply contract. In addition, the Compact would not need to modify its energy efficiency plan or budget through a mid-term modification, as there will be no change in the municipal membership of the Compact and the Cape Light Compact JPE will assume implementation of the Compact's 2016 – 2018 Three Year Plan, approved by the Department in D.P.U. 15-166.

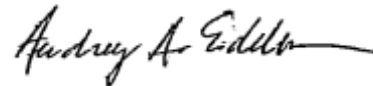
**VI. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, the Compact respectfully requests that the Department issue an advisory ruling to clarify that the Compact does not need to file a revised Aggregation Plan if it undergoes an internal reorganization that transfers the Compact's operations from an inter-governmental organization under G.L. c. 40, §4A to a Joint Powers Entity under G.L. c. 40, §4A1/2.

Respectfully submitted,

THE CAPE LIGHT COMPACT

By its attorneys,



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Dated: March 31, 2017

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**

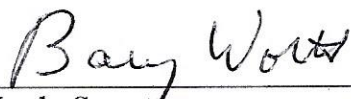
## CAPE LIGHT COMPACT

### Secretary's Certificate

The undersigned, Barry Worth, Secretary of the Cape Light Compact ("Compact"), an organization comprised of all 21 towns of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, and Barnstable and Dukes counties and formed pursuant to the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4A, in such capacity and not individually, hereby certifies on behalf of the Compact, that:

1. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and complete copy of the votes taken by the Cape Light Compact Governing Board dated November 18, 2015. Such votes have not been amended or rescinded, and are in full force and effect on the date hereof in the form adopted.
2. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a true, correct and complete copy of the Sixth Amended and Restated Inter-Governmental Agreement of the Compact, dated as of November 18, 2015.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand as of this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Worth, Secretary

**SIXTH AMENDED AND RESTATED  
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT  
OF THE  
CAPE LIGHT COMPACT  
(November 18, 2015)**

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This Sixth Amended and Restated Inter-Governmental Agreement (“Agreement”) is dated as of November 18, 2015 and is entered into by and between the County of Barnstable, County of Dukes County and the municipalities legally joining therein, pursuant to the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, §4A.

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Restructuring Act of 1997 (the “Act”) was enacted during a period where Federal Law allowed for the restructuring of existing electric utilities into separate generation, transmission and distribution companies and, accordingly, the Act set forth a framework for the competitive supply of electric generation service to Massachusetts electric customers and allowed electric customers to choose their electric power supplier; and

WHEREAS, the Cape Light Compact (“Compact”) was entered into with the County of Barnstable, County of Dukes County and the municipalities legally joining therein, pursuant to the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, §4A, through an original Inter-Governmental Agreement effective as of October, 1997; and

WHEREAS, the County of Barnstable, County of Dukes County and the municipalities legally joining therein, amended the original Inter-Governmental Agreement in June, 1999, September, 2006, November, 2010, February, 2011, April 11, 2012 and September 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Compact recognizes that local governments have a substantial stake in the restructuring of the Massachusetts electric industry and that local governments represent community interests and provide a “natural aggregator” function through which consumers may gain greater benefits and terms in contracts; and

WHEREAS, under the authority of G.L. c. 164, §134, G.L. c. 25A, §6 and pursuant to the original Inter-Governmental Agreement, adopted October, 1997, as amended, the Compact developed a municipal aggregation plan, setting forth the structure, operations, services, funding and policies of the Compact, approved in D.T.E. 00-47 (August 10, 2000) and approved as updated in D.P.U. 14-69 (May 1, 2015; May 18, 2015); and

WHEREAS, the Compact currently operates a municipal aggregation competitive supply program which provides electric power supply on an opt-out basis to customers across all customer classes located on Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard and the Compact also provides comprehensive energy efficiency services to Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard through the Cape

Light Compact Energy Efficiency Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Green Communities Act, St. 2008, c. 169, provided expanded authority to municipalities and other governmental entities to pursue energy efficiency, renewable energy development and other related activities; and

WHEREAS, the Compact continues to explore all available options for providing its customers with the best electrical supply and distribution rates and demand side management and renewable programs.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, and in order to reflect the current policies and purposes of the Compact, the County of Barnstable, the County of Dukes County and the municipalities legally joining therein hereby enter into this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE I: POLICY AND PURPOSE**

The Compact's goals include, without limitation, the following:

- To provide the basis for aggregation of all consumers on a non-discriminatory basis;
- To negotiate the best terms and conditions for electricity supply and transparent pricing;
- To explore all available options for negotiating the best terms and conditions for electricity supply and the development of renewable energy resources, including, without limitation, the formation of and/or membership in a co-operative organization to purchase or produce energy or renewable energy certificates ("RECs") or both on a long-term, basis;
- To provide equal sharing of economic savings based on current electric rates and/or cost-of-service ratemaking approved by the Department of Public Utilities, or its successor;
- To provide and enhance consumer protection and options for service under contract provisions and to allow those consumers who choose not to participate to opt-out;
- To improve quality of service and reliability;
- To encourage environmental protection through contract provisions;
- To utilize and encourage renewable energy development to the extent practicable through contract provisions, demonstration projects and state mandated system benefit charges for renewable energy;

- To administer an energy efficiency plan that advances consumer awareness and the adoption of a wide variety of energy efficiency measures and that also utilizes and encourages demand side management, all through contract provisions, demonstration projects and the use of state mandated system benefit charges for energy efficiency and other related charges and funds;
- To advance specific community goals that may be selected from time to time, such as placing utility wires underground;
- To provide full public accountability to consumers; and
- To utilize municipal and other powers and authorities that constitute basic consumer protection to achieve these goals.

## **ARTICLE II: POWERS OF THE COMPACT**

The Compact shall have the following powers:

- a) to plan projects;
- b) to implement projects and/or conduct research;
- c) to negotiate contracts and other agreements, provided, however, that any contract for the purchase of electric power supplies, distribution, transmission or metering, billing and information services or related to any of the foregoing, shall not impose direct financial obligations on any member municipality or county (except for *de minimis* impacts by virtue of such member's participation in the Compact) until approved by such individual member municipality or county, as the case may be;
- d) to adopt an annual budget and to direct the expenditure of funds made available to the Compact by grant or contribution from public and private sector entities, or on account of any contract negotiated or administered by the Compact;
- e) to acquire property by gift, purchase or lease;
- f) to construct equipment and facilities;
- g) to apply for and receive grants, contributions and other such financial assistance from public and private sector entities or to receive amounts derived as a portion of the savings on, or as a surcharge, dedicated mills/kilowatt hour fee or other such charge as part of any electric energy purchase or similar contract negotiated and/or administered by the Compact and, to the extent required herein, agreed to by each member municipality or county to be financially bound thereby;

- h) to apply for and receive funds derived from the state mandated system benefit charges and to use such funds in accordance with state law;
- i) to employ staff, consultants, attorneys, technical advisors and independent contractors;
- j) to adopt bylaws to govern its internal affairs;
- k) to reimburse persons who have advanced funds;
- l) to enforce agreements or otherwise prosecute claims on behalf of member municipalities and counties and coordinate their defense in any claim made against them relating to any agreement or other matter related to the Compact;
- m) to invest funds;
- n) to procure insurance;
- o) to obtain project-related financing through any mechanism such as the federal Clean Renewable Energy Bond program, and other financing options;
- p) to contract with an agent, including, without limitation, a regional government or a member, to manage or accomplish any of its functions or objectives;
- q) to enter into agreements with state, quasi-state, county and municipal agencies; cooperatives and private entities, all as is convenient or necessary to manage or accomplish any of the Compact's functions or objectives; and
- r) to perform generally all acts which are necessary or convenient to implement the powers which are expressly or by necessary implication conferred upon the Compact and are not otherwise prohibited under any other provision of law.

### **ARTICLE III: GOVERNING BOARD**

#### **A. Powers of the Community Representatives.**

The Compact shall have a board of community representatives (hereafter a "Representative" or the "Representatives," as the case may be and collectively the "Governing Board") who shall be responsible for the general management and supervision of the business and affairs of the Compact except with respect to those powers reserved to the member municipalities or counties of the Compact by law or this Agreement. The Governing Board may from time to time, to the extent permitted by law, delegate any of its powers to committees, subject to such limitations as the Governing Board may impose. The Governing Board may delegate to the Executive Committee the powers to act for the Governing Board between regular, annual or special meetings of the board. The Governing Board may designate persons or groups



of persons as sponsors, benefactors, contributors, advisors or friends of the Compact or such other title as they may deem appropriate and as is consistent with applicable law.

**B. Number, Qualifications and Term of Office.**

The Governing Board shall consist of one Representative for each member municipality and one County Commissioner appointed by the Barnstable County Board of Commissioners and one Representative appointed by the Dukes County Board of Commissioners, and alternates therefor, in case any such Representative shall be unable to attend a meeting or otherwise participate in any matter regarding the Compact. In the absence of a Representative, his/her alternate shall be entitled to vote and otherwise exercise all of the powers of such Representative. The Representatives, and alternates, shall be selected by the Selectmen or Town Manager, as the case may be, for each member municipality. In the case of the County Representatives, such Representatives and his/her alternates shall be selected by the Board of Commissioners. Except as hereinafter provided, the Representatives (and alternates) shall hold office until the next selection of Representatives (and alternates) by each such member municipality or county and until his/her successor is selected.

**C. Executive Committee.**

There shall be an Executive Committee composed of no less than five (5) Representatives, at least one of whom shall be a Representative from Dukes County or a member town of Dukes County. The Executive Committee shall be selected by majority vote of all of the Representatives.

**D. Manner of Acting and Quorum.**

Provided there is a quorum present at the meeting, and except as specified elsewhere herein, the Governing Board shall act by vote of a majority of the Representatives present at the time of the vote. Unless altered by the Governing Board in accordance with this Agreement, each member municipality and county shall be entitled to select one Representative whose vote shall be equal in weight to the Representative of any other member municipality and county, except as expressly set forth in the succeeding paragraphs. Representatives may participate in meetings remotely in accordance with the regulations of the Office of the Attorney General governing remote participation, 940 C.M.R. 29.10. A quorum shall be deemed present if the combined population of the towns whose Representatives are present at a meeting is at least equal to 50% of the combined population of all of the member municipalities of the Compact; and provided further, that at least one Representative from one of the Towns in Dukes County or Dukes County and at least two-thirds of the Representatives for Barnstable County and the member municipalities of Barnstable County are physically present or participating remotely in accordance with 940 C.M.R. 29.10. In accordance with 940 C.M.R. 29.10 and the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25, a simple majority of the members of the public body must be physically present. While a quorum is present, unless another provision is made by law, this Agreement or by the Compact's own rules, all business shall be determined by a majority vote of all participating members.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any vote involving a matter concerning issues which would or could bear in a direct and material fashion on the financial interests of the member municipalities shall be taken by a weighted vote in which the vote of each Representative shall be weighted in the same proportion as the population of the municipality such Representative represents bears to the whole population of the member municipalities of the Compact, such population as determined, in the case of Barnstable County, by the most recent federal census, or decennial census, and, in the case of Dukes County, by the most recent data available from the Martha's Vineyard Commission. In case of a dispute as to whether a vote shall be taken on a weighted basis as set forth in this paragraph or on a one town, one vote basis as set forth in the preceding paragraph of this subsection, the determination shall be made by weighted vote as set forth herein.

In taking any vote required to be taken by weighted vote hereunder, the votes of Barnstable County and Dukes County shall be tabulated last, with each county's Representative having one equal vote, and the vote of said counties may break a tie; otherwise the counties' votes shall not be accorded any percentage weight but shall be recorded nonetheless.

**E. Rules and Minutes.**

The Governing Board shall determine its own rules and order of business, unless otherwise provided by the Compact or statute or this Agreement. The Governing Board shall also provide for the keeping of minutes of its proceedings. All regular and Executive Committee meeting announcements shall be sent to all members of the Governing Board.

**F. Voting.**

If requested by any Representative, a vote of the body shall be taken by a roll call and the vote of each Representative shall be recorded in the minutes, provided, however, if any vote is unanimous only that fact need be recorded.

**G. Resignation and Removal.**

**1. Resignation.**

Any Representative (or alternate) may resign at any time upon written notice to the remaining Governing Board. A Representative may resign from the Executive Committee and still keep his or her position as a Representative. The resignation of any Representative (or alternate) or resignation from the Executive Committee shall take effect upon receipt of notice thereof or at such later time as shall be specified in such notice, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

**2. Removal.**

Any Representative (or alternate) may be removed at any time with or without cause by

their appointing authority. The Governing Board may remove a Representative from the Executive Committee or the Governing Board only with good cause.

**H. Vacancies.**

**1. Vacancies on the Governing Board.**

Continuing Representatives may act despite a vacancy in the Governing Board and shall for this purpose be deemed to constitute the full board. A vacancy in the Governing Board of a Representative shall be promptly filled, but in no case more than sixty days thereafter, by the appointing authority of the member municipality or county which originally selected such Representative. Each Representative chosen to fill a vacancy on the Governing Board shall hold office until the next annual selection of the Representatives and until his/her successor shall be appointed and qualify. Insofar as there is no Representative then in office representing a member municipality or county, the alternate shall act in his/her stead.

**2. Vacancies on the Executive Committee.**

Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the position was originally filled.

**3. No Right to Compensation.**

Unless the Governing Board in its discretion provides for compensation, no Representative or alternate resigning, and (except where a right to receive compensation shall be expressly provided in a duly authorized written agreement with the Compact) no Representative or alternate removed, shall have any right to any compensation as such Representative or alternate for any period following his/her resignation or removal, or any right to damages on account of such removal, whether his/her compensation be by the month or by the year or otherwise.

**ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

**A. Place.**

Meetings of the Governing Board, including meetings of the Executive Committee, shall be held at such place within Barnstable County or Dukes County as may be named in the notice of such meeting.

**B. Annual and Regular Meetings.**

The annual meeting of the Governing Board shall be held each year on the second Wednesday of September. In the event the annual meeting is not held on such date, a special meeting in lieu of the annual meeting may be held with all the force and effect of an annual meeting. Regular meetings may be held at such times as the Governing Board may fix but no

less frequently than quarterly.

**C. Special Meetings.**

Special meetings of the Governing Board may be called by the chair or any other officer or Representative at other times throughout the year.

**D. Notice.**

In addition to the personal notice to Representatives set forth in Article III(E), public notice of any regular or annual meeting shall be made in compliance with the Open Meeting Law and other applicable law. Forty-eight hours' notice to Representatives by mail, telegraph, telephone or word of mouth shall be given for a special meeting unless shorter notice is adequate under the circumstances, provided, however, that public notice of such special meeting has been made in compliance with applicable law. A notice or waiver of notice need not specify the purpose of any special meeting. Personal notice of a meeting need not be given to any Representative if a written waiver of notice, executed by him or her before or after the meeting, is filed with the records of the meeting, or to any Representative who attends the meeting without protesting prior thereto or at its commencement the lack of notice to him or her.

**E. Vote of Interested Representatives.**

A Representative who is a member, stockholder, trustee, director, officer or employee of any firm, corporation or association with which the Compact contemplates contracting or transacting business shall disclose his or her relationship or interest to the other Representatives acting upon or in reference to such contract or transaction. No Representative so interested shall vote on such contract or transaction, but he or she may be counted for the purpose of determining a quorum. The affirmative vote of a majority of the disinterested Representatives as set forth in Article III(D) hereof shall be required before the Compact may enter into such contract or transaction.

In case the Compact enters into a contract or transacts business with any firm, corporation or association of which one or more of its Representatives is a member, stockholder, trustee, director, officer, or employee, such contract or transaction shall not be invalidated or in any way affected by the fact that such Representative or Representatives have or may have interests therein which are or might be adverse to the interests of the Compact. No Representative or Representatives having disclosed such adverse interest shall be liable to the Compact or to any creditor of the Compact or to any other person for any loss incurred by it under or by reason of any such contract or transaction, nor shall any such Representative or Representatives be accountable for any gains or profits to be realized thereon.

Nothing contained herein shall affect the compliance of any Representative or the Governing Board or the Compact with G.L. c. 268A, as set forth in Article VI, below.

## **ARTICLE V: OPEN MEETING LAW; EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

The meetings of the Governing Board are subject to the Massachusetts law governing open meetings of governmental bodies and governmental boards and commissions, including the Open Meeting Law. The Governing Board is therefore required to maintain accurate records of its meetings, setting forth the date, time, place, members present or absent and action taken at each meeting, including executive sessions.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, the Governing Board may hold an executive session after an open meeting has been convened and a recorded vote has been taken to hold an executive session. Executive sessions may be held only for the purposes specifically enumerated in the Open Meeting Law, including, but not limited to, to discuss energy-related trade secrets or confidential information.

Matters discussed in executive sessions of the Governing Board must be treated as confidential. A violation of confidentiality may lead to disciplinary action as established by the Governing Board, including removal of a Representative in accordance with Article III(G)(2).

## **ARTICLE VI: G.L. c. 268A**

The Governing Board, as it consists of county and municipal representatives is subject to the provisions of the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law, G.L. c. 268A, and shall act at all times in conformity therewith. Public employees who work for two or more public entities may find that each agency has an interest in a particular matter. Compact employees or Representatives may be asked to work on matters for the Compact and the Compact's affiliated organization, the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc. (the "Cooperative"). In order to help employees and Representatives identify and properly address potential conflicts under the Conflict of Interest Law, employees and Representatives should consider the following: (i) the Cooperative's founding purpose is to develop renewable energy projects and otherwise procure generation and generation-related products (*i.e.*, RECs); (ii) the Compact is a municipal aggregator and serves the complementary purposes of arranging for retail power supply, consumer advocacy and energy efficiency; (iii) the Cooperative seeks to finance and develop such projects and to provide generation to its members and the Compact (to be blended with its retail power supply); and (iv) the Compact is a member of the Cooperative and the Compact intends to purchase generation from the Cooperative and participate in projects developed by the Cooperative. Any employee or Representative may request free legal advice from the State Ethics Commission about how the Conflict of Interest Law applies to them in a particular situation. This process is explained at <http://www.mass.gov/ethics/commission-services/request-advice.html>.

## **ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS**

### **A. Election.**

At its first meeting of the calendar year, the Governing Board shall elect a chair, vice

chair, treasurer, secretary and officer at large and such other officers as the Governing Board shall determine. The term of office for those so elected shall be one year and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all officers must be a Representative and, upon selection of a successor Representative by such officer's appointing municipality or county, such officer shall immediately tender notice thereof to the Compact and the Governing Board shall select a replacement among the various Representatives for the remaining term of such officer.

**B. Qualifications.**

Two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of chair and secretary.

**C. Vacancies.**

Any vacancy occurring among the officers, however caused, may be filled by the Governing Board, from among the Representatives for the unexpired portion of the term.

**D. Removal and Resignation of Officers.**

**1. Removal.**

Any officer of the Compact may be removed from their respective offices with or without cause by resolution adopted by a majority of the Representatives then in office at any annual or special meeting of the Governing Board or by a written consent by all of the Representatives then in office.

**2. Resignation.**

Any officer may resign at any time by giving his or her resignation in writing to the chair, treasurer, secretary or any other officer or Representative of the Compact. An officer may resign as officer without resigning from other positions in the Compact, including positions on the Executive Committee or as Representative.

**E. Sponsors, Benefactors, Contributors, Advisors, Friends of the Compact.**

Persons or groups of persons designated by the Governing Board as sponsor, benefactor, contributor, advisor or friend of the Compact or such other title as the Governing Board deems appropriate shall, except as the Governing Board shall otherwise determine, serve in an honorary capacity. In such capacity they shall have no right to notice of or to vote at any meeting, shall not be considered for purposes of establishing a quorum and shall have no other rights or responsibilities.

**F. Chair.**

The chair shall preside at all meetings at which he or she is present. Unless otherwise directed by the Governing Board, all other officers shall be subject to the authority and supervision of the chair. The chair also shall have such other powers and duties as customarily belong to the office of chair or as may be designated from time to time by the Governing Board.

**G. Vice Chair.**

The vice chair shall assist the chair and preside at meetings at which the chair is not present. The vice chair also shall have such other powers and duties as customarily belong to the office of vice chair or as may be designated from time to time by the Governing Board.

**H. Treasurer.**

The treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Compact and shall have such powers and duties as customarily belong to the office of treasurer or as may be designated from time to time by the chair or the Governing Board. The roles and responsibilities of the treasurer may be delegated or expanded. Pursuant to the Administrative Services Agreement between the Compact and Barnstable County, as such agreement may be amended from time to time, the County is the designated agent and fulfills the administrative role for the Compact.

**I. Secretary.**

The secretary shall arrange for the recording, consistent with applicable law, of all proceedings of the Governing Board, Executive Committee and any other such committee in a book or books to be kept therefor, shall have custody of the seal of the Compact, and have such powers and duties as customarily belong to the office of clerk or secretary or as may be designated from time to time by the chair or the Governing Board.

**J. Other Officers.**

The Governing Board shall have legal counsel for the Compact. The Compact's legal counsel may jointly represent the Compact's members or affiliates in accordance with a bylaw adopted by the Compact pursuant to Article II(j).

The Compact shall designate a Chief Procurement Officer, whose role, in accordance with G.L. c. 30B and other applicable provisions of law, shall be to select proposals for and facilitate the award of contracts on behalf of the Compact, with input from members of the Governing Board, Compact staff, counsel and others, as such Chief Procurement Officer sees fit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Governing Board may determine that the Compact, as long as consistent with applicable law, will select proposals and award contracts in another manner.

Other officers shall have such powers as may be designated from time to time by the Governing Board.

**K. Compact Administrator.**

In general, the Compact Administrator shall serve as the chief administrative and operating officer and supervise, direct and be responsible for the efficient administration of the business of the Compact.

More specifically, the Compact Administrator shall be responsible for:

- (i) Implementing the goals and carrying out the policies of the Compact Governing Board;
- (ii) Maintaining the complete and full records, reports and filings associated with the financial and administrative activity of the Compact;
- (iii) Planning and directing all administrative and operational functions of the Compact consistent with budgets approved by the Governing Board;
- (iv) Managing the hiring process, supervising and directing the work of all staff consistent with budgets and strategic goals approved by the Governing Board;
- (v) Consulting and advising the Governing Board as to the business, operational and strategic concerns of the Compact including fiscal affairs, legal and operational issues, and major program initiatives;
- (vi) Regularly attending all Compact Board meetings and answering all questions addressed to him/her;
- (vii) Managing the Compact's legal affairs, including directing the Compact's participation in regulatory and judicial proceedings, consistent with relevant budgets approved by the Governing Board;
- (viii) Managing the Compact's energy efficiency program in accordance with all applicable laws and the rules and regulations of the Department of Public Utilities, or any successor entity;
- (ix) Negotiating and executing contracts for power supply procurement, renewable energy certificates, energy efficiency contracts, contracts for professional services and legal services in order to achieve the strategic goals and business purposes of the governing board.
- (x) Perform such other duties as may be directed by the Governing Board from time to time, or as may be necessary or advisable to fulfill the Compact's objectives.



## **ARTICLE VIII: BUDGET; MAXIMUM FINANCIAL LIABILITY OF THE MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES**

The Compact shall adopt an operating budget for each fiscal year and direct the expenditure of funds in accordance with applicable law. The operating budget and any amendments thereto shall be approved by a weighted vote of the Governing Board in accordance with Article III(D).

This Agreement is not intended to impose any independent financial liabilities on the members. Each member shall remain responsible for its own debts and other financial liabilities, except as specifically provided herein.

## **ARTICLE IX: COOPERATION**

The member municipalities, Dukes County and Barnstable County agree to act in good faith and use their best efforts to effectuate the intent and purpose of this Agreement. All parties to this Agreement shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible.

## **ARTICLE X: ELECTRICITY AND OTHER AGREEMENTS**

Pursuant to this Agreement, member municipalities, Barnstable County, Dukes County, and private consumers may enter into contracts for the distribution, transmission and/or supply of electricity, for the purchase of energy and RECs, and for project financing in support thereof, provided, however, that any contract for the purchase of electric power supplies, distribution, transmission or metering, billing and information services or related to any of the foregoing, shall not impose direct financial obligations on any member municipality or county (except for *de minimis* impacts by virtue of such member's participation in the Compact) until approved by such individual member municipality or county, as the case may be, and further, that any contract shall indemnify and hold harmless the Compact and its members from any financial liability or provide commercially reasonable indemnification with respect to the provision of such products or services.

## **ARTICLE XI: OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS**

Nothing in this Agreement or in any negotiated contract for the supply of electricity shall be construed to supersede, alter or otherwise impair any obligation imposed on any municipality or county by otherwise applicable law.

## **ARTICLE XII: INDEMNIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES**

Each member of the Compact shall, to the extent legally permissible, indemnify the person(s) each such member chooses as set forth in Article III(A) to serve as a Representative for their service on the Governing Board and/or as a member of the Executive Committee and/or as an officer or who has served at any time as a Representative or officer or Executive Committee member of the Compact. All contracts negotiated or undertaken by the Compact shall also

include, to the maximum extent feasible, indemnification of the Representatives and the participating members.

### **ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENT**

This Agreement may be altered, amended, or repealed, in whole or in part, by the affirmative vote of Representatives of municipalities whose population is at least equal to 50% of the combined population of all of the member municipalities of the Compact; provided that at least two-thirds of the Representatives from all of Barnstable County vote in the affirmative; and further provided that at least one Representative from all of Dukes County also votes in the affirmative.

### **ARTICLE XIV: TERM AND WITHDRAWAL**

Each member shall take such action as required under G.L. c. 40, §4A to make this Agreement effective. This Agreement shall be effective as of the date that the last of the members signs below, and shall continue in effect for a term not to exceed twenty-five years. At the conclusion of the term, taking into account any changed circumstances, the members shall in good faith negotiate a replacement intergovernmental agreement.

Any governmental member may voluntarily withdraw from the Compact at the end of each quarter of the fiscal year (i.e. June 30th, September 30th, December 31st, March 31st), upon thirty days prior written notice. Withdrawal of such member shall not affect any obligations entered into prior to the date of withdrawal which are binding by their terms on such member, including, without limitation, contracts directly entered into by such member and financial contributions to the Compact made or agreed to be made by such member.

If the purposes of the Compact are attained, or for any other reason duly voted upon by the Governing Board, the Compact may dissolve. Upon dissolution, an accounting of the assets owned by the Compact shall be performed and sold. The proceeds of the sale shall be distributed equitably to the then remaining members of the Compact according to their percent contribution.

### **ARTICLE XV: CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY**

This Agreement shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this Agreement shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this Agreement is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any Massachusetts or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Agreement and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this Agreement shall be held contrary to the constitution or General Laws of Massachusetts, the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to all severable matters.

## **ARTICLE XVI: MISCELLANEOUS**

### **A. Principal Office.**

The principal office of the Compact shall be located at the Barnstable County Commissioners' Office, P.O. Box 427, Barnstable, MA 02630. The Governing Board may change the location of the principal office in accordance with Article III.

### **B. Compact Records.**

The original, or attested copies, of this Agreement and records of all meetings of the Governing Board and members shall be kept in Massachusetts at the principal office of the Compact. Said copies and records need not all be kept in the same office. They shall be available at all reasonable times for the inspection of any member or Representative for any proper purpose and as required by law. The records of the Compact shall be subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Act, G.L. c. 66, and shall be deemed public records, unless such records fall within the exemptions set forth in G.L. c. 4, §7, including exemptions for development of inter-agency policy and trade secrets or commercial or financial information.

### **C. Fiscal Year.**

The fiscal year of the Compact shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th, e.g. the same fiscal year as established by the General Laws for cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

### **D. Seal.**

The seal of the Compact shall be a circular die with the name of the Compact around the periphery and the year and the date of establishment within.

### **E. Reports; Compliance with G.L. c. 40, §4A.**

The Compact shall keep accurate and comprehensive records of services performed, costs incurred, and reimbursements and contributions received. The Compact agrees that it will perform regular audits of such records separate and apart from audits conducted by the Compact's fiscal agent. Periodic financial statements shall be issued to all members. To the extent applicable, if at all, any reimbursement for or contribution toward the cost of any work related to this Agreement shall be made at such intervals as provided in the Administrative Services Agreement or other applicable agreements. The Compact will comply with all other applicable provisions of G.L. c. 40, §4A.

The Compact shall also prepare a written annual report, in the format required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities ("DPU") regarding the expenditure of energy efficiency funds for the previous calendar year. Such reports shall be filed with the DPU no later than August 1, unless filing or reporting requirements established by the DPU necessitate a different date, and posted to the Compact's web site within thirty days of submission to the

DPU. In addition, the Compact shall periodically prepare written overviews of the Compact's program activities for each member for inclusion in its individual town annual reports.

**F. Multiple Originals.**

This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument. In addition, this Agreement may contain more than one counterpart of the signature page and all of such signature pages shall be read as though one and shall have the same force and effect as though all of the parties had executed a single signature page.

**G. No Partnership or Joint Venture in Contracts with Third Parties; Limitation of Responsibility.**

In carrying out its purposes as described herein, and in entry into any third party contract for the purchase of electric power supplies, distribution, transmission or metering, billing and information services or related to any of the foregoing, neither the Compact nor any of its members shall be a partner or joint venturer with any third party. The relationship between the Compact (and/or its members) on the one hand and the other party(ies) to such contract on the other hand shall be that of buyer and seller or agent for the buyer and seller, as the case may be. Nothing therein contained shall be deemed to constitute the Compact (and/or its members) as a partner, agent or legal representative of any third party or to create a joint venture, agency or any relationship between the Compact (and/or its members) and any third party other than that of buyer and seller or agent for the buyer and seller, as the case may be. The Compact and its members have no responsibility to supply, distribute, transmit, meter, bill or otherwise provide electricity to any consumer and none is implied hereby or thereby. Nothing in this Article XVI(G) shall be construed as prohibiting the Compact from entering into a partnership or joint venture relationship with any organization in which it has a membership interest or affiliation, including the Cooperative.

**H. Appendix.**

The bylaws of the Compact shall be set forth in an appendix to this Agreement. The Compact's administrator may update and replace such appendix each time such bylaws are duly amended by the Governing Board without the necessity of further Governing Board approval.

**AUTHORIZED AND AGREED TO BY:**

Town of Barnstable

Town of Bourne

Town of Brewster

Town of Chatham

Town of Dennis

Town of Eastham

Town of Falmouth

Town of Harwich

Town of Mashpee

Town of Orleans

Town of Provincetown

Town of Sandwich

Town of Truro

Town of Wellfleet

Town of Yarmouth

Barnstable County

Town of Aquinnah

Town of Chilmark

Town of Edgartown

Town of Oak Bluffs

Town of Tisbury

Town of West Tisbury

County of Dukes County

**BYLAWS**  
**OF**  
**CAPE LIGHT COMPACT**  
**Adopted March 25, 2009**

**Bylaw 1.      *Shared Legal Representation Involving Members or Other Public Entities;  
Official Duties of Compact Counsel.***

The purpose of this bylaw is to allow the Compact from time to time to retain counsel who may also represent its Members or other public entities in matters in which the Compact has a direct or substantial interest without violating G.L. c. 268A, Section 11(a) and (c). Such dual or common representation allows the Compact to pool resources for a common purpose, develop mutual interests, and preserve scarce Compact funds. Pursuant to this bylaw, the official duties of Compact counsel include, but are not limited to, representing Members or other public entities in: (i) administrative and judicial proceedings in which the Compact is also a party; (ii) contract negotiations or project development matters in which the Compact or its Members have an interest, and (iii) other matters in which the Compact has a direct or substantial interest, provided that in each instance, such dual or common representation would not cause a violation of rules governing attorney conduct. Compact counsel shall discharge such duties only when requested in writing by the Compact's Governing Board. Prior to making such a request, the Compact's Governing Board shall determine whether the interests of the Compact would be advanced by such dual or common representation and shall evaluate if actual or potential conflicts of interest exist. If any conflicts are identified, they shall be described in the written request. Counsel shall then make its own determination whether such dual or common representation would not cause a violation of rules governing attorney conduct.

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**AGGREGATION PLAN**



# CAPE LIGHT COMPACT AGGREGATION PLAN

**For additional information contact:**

Cape Light Compact Administrator  
P.O. Box 427  
Superior Court House  
Barnstable, MA 02630

Telephone: (508) 375-6636

As revised by  
DPU 14-69, Order dated  
May 1, 2015

# FOREWORD

On August 27, 2013, the Cape Light Compact (“Compact”) was asked by the Department of Public Utilities (“DPU”) to review its Aggregation Plan to determine whether the Compact should file a revised plan to reflect current structure and operations, consider removing obsolete references and to comply with any applicable laws, regulations and DPU precedent as well as the forthcoming decision in DPU 12-124 (Lowell Aggregation Plan). (The Lowell decision was subsequently issued on November 27, 2013.)

The Compact’s Aggregation Plan was prepared in 1999 and approved by the DPU in 2001. It was drafted to reflect the requirements of state law at the time it was submitted for approval to the DPU. The Compact’s structure and purposes also are set forth in detail in the Inter-Governmental Agreement, executed by all participating Compact member towns and counties (“Members”). The Inter-Governmental Agreement was originally adopted by the Compact members in 1998 and is the document that has guided the Compact after its initial implementation of universal generation service on an opt-out basis. The Inter-Governmental Agreement is reviewed by the Compact Board on a regular basis, and was most recently updated in September 2012. The Compact complies with all relevant statutory provisions as they may be amended from time to time by the Massachusetts Legislature.

It was not the Compact’s objective to continually update the Aggregation Plan as it was viewed as an initial requirement for becoming a municipal aggregator. Going forward and in accordance with DPU 12-124, the Compact will update its Aggregation Plan should it seek to materially deviate from the approved plan or if changes in the law, regulations, the competitive supply market or other circumstances result in the approved plan no longer accurately describing the primary operations of the Compact’s aggregation. The Compact and its Members also may make other updates to the Inter-Governmental Agreement.

The following updates to the Plan incorporate a broad overview of current operations and practices, but also preserve certain sections of the Aggregation Plan that are important for historical context. We hope that the Cape and Vineyard community appreciate the compilation of past and present Compact activities, and encourage all interested persons to read the Inter-Governmental Agreement for a more up-to-date reflection of the Compact’s organizational structure and practices as it undertakes not only aggregated power supply and the provision of energy efficiency services but also other activities as an intergovernmental compact between the twenty-one Cape and Vineyard towns and their two counties.

After the Updated Plan was filed with the DPU on April 3, 2014 and discovery concluded, the DPU held a technical session and suggested further revisions to improve the clarity and completeness of the Updated Plan. None of these additional revisions make substantive changes to the Compact’s operations. The Compact filed these further revisions on August 20, 2014.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Flynn  
Chair  
March 2014 (revised August 2014)

# Purpose of the Aggregation Plan

The Cape Light Compact (the “Compact”) developed this Aggregation Plan in compliance with Massachusetts law regarding public aggregation of electric consumers. It contains required information on the structure, operations, services, funding, and policies of the Compact. The Aggregation Plan has been developed in consultation with the then Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources, now the Department of Energy Resources (hereafter “DOER”).

The Compact is a cooperative effort of twenty-one Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard towns and Barnstable and Dukes counties. The Compact was formed in 1997 following two years of study and town meetings and town council votes. Its purpose, among other things, is to represent consumer interests in the competitive markets for electricity. It seeks to aggregate all consumers to negotiate the best terms and conditions for electricity supply and pricing and to advance consumer protection for the residents and businesses of Cape Cod and the Vineyard. It brings together the buying power of up to 202,000 customers (as of March, 2014). Participation is voluntary for the towns and for each individual consumer. Any individual has the opportunity to decline power supply service provided through the Compact and choose any electric supplier they wish.

The Compact provides:

- 1) an option to join together for purchase of power supply at the best terms and conditions and the most competitive market rates available;
- 2) the recovery of funds collected from Cape and Vineyard consumers by the Local Distribution Company on behalf of the Compact each year for energy efficiency and application of those funds in approved energy efficiency and conservation programs; and
- 3) an opportunity for professional representation at the state level and in negotiations with the Local Distribution Company with respect to changes in the electric industry.

The Compact distributed this plan for public review prior to submitting it to the Department of Public Utilities (hereafter “DPU”).

Member towns:

(Barnstable County):

Barnstable	Harwich
Bourne	Mashpee
Brewster	Orleans
Chatham	Provincetown
Dennis	Sandwich
Eastham	Truro
Falmouth	Wellfleet
	Yarmouth

(Dukes County):

Aquinnah
Chilmark
Edgartown
Oak Bluffs
Tisbury
West Tisbury

# CONTENTS

- 1.0 The Process of Aggregation
- 2.0 The Organizational Structure and Operations of the Compact Program
- 3.0 Program Funding
- 4.0 Activation and Termination of the Power Supply Program
- 5.0 Methods for Entering and Terminating Agreements with Other Entities
- 6.0 Ratesetting and Other Costs to Participants
- 7.0 Universal Access
- 8.0 Equitable Treatment of All Classes of Customers
- 9.0 Reporting
- 10.0 Reliability
- 11.0 Rights and Responsibilities of Power Supply Program Participants
- 12.0 The Consequences of Aggregation
- 13.0 Meet Any Requirements Established By Law or the Department Concerning Aggregated Service
- 14.0 Updating the Compact's Aggregation Plan

# REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION

General Law c. 164, §134 (part of the Massachusetts Electric Industry Restructuring Act) contains several requirements for municipal aggregators. One requirement is to develop an Aggregation Plan in consultation with the DOER. The Aggregation Plan is subject to review by citizens in the participating towns and approval by the DPU. The Compact's Aggregation Plan went through this process in 1999 and received DPU approval in D.T.E. 00-47 (2001). Under the law [G.L. c. 164, §134], there are fourteen requirements to be described in the Aggregation Plan.

## **1.0 THE PROCESS OF AGGREGATION**

The process of municipal aggregation for the Compact involved a multi-step public process that the Compact originally undertook from 1998 to 2001:

- 1.1 Vote of town meeting
- 1.2 Vote of selectmen, town council, or county commissioners
- 1.3 Town/county representative participates on Compact Governing Board
- 1.4 Planning process/development of policy including Aggregation Plan, RFPs, contracts
- 1.5 Development and release of Request for Proposals
- 1.6 Review of Aggregation Plan by citizens
- 1.7 Power supply contract to selectmen/town council for acceptance vote, conditioned on DPU approval and final signing
- 1.8 Power supply contract and Aggregation Plan submitted to DPU for approval
- 1.9 Final signing by each participating town
- 1.10 Notification of consumers of automatic enrollment
- 1.11 Administrative transfer of customers to Compact supplier(s)
- 1.12 180-day opt-out period begins on first day of service
- 1.13 File contract and report with state (DPU, DOER, Inspector General) within 15 days of signing contract

In addition to this process, as a public entity the Compact must comply with open meeting laws, ethical rules, and certain public bidding and information requirements.

The 2014 revisions to the Compact's Aggregation Plan included the following steps:

- 1.1 August 27, 2013, the DPU sent the Compact a letter asking the Compact to consider revising its Aggregation Plan.
- 1.2 September 11, 2013, Compact Governing Board discussed DPU letter at its Board Meeting and agreed that revisions to Aggregation Plan were warranted and developed a process for revising the Aggregation Plan.
- 1.3 November 20, 2013, Compact Governing Board continued deliberations and began discussion of proposed revisions to Aggregation Plan.

- 1.4 December 5, 2013, as required by G.L. c. 164, §134(a) and the DPU August letter, the Compact Administrator consulted with DOER regarding the Compact's proposed process and revisions to the Aggregation Plan. DOER provided suggested revisions to the Aggregation Plan, which were incorporated into the Updated Aggregation Plan.
- 1.5 December 11, 2013, Compact Governing Board reviewed and discussed a redlined version of the proposed Updated Aggregation Plan. The Board also approved a seven week public comment period and three informational meetings on the Updated Aggregation Plan.
- 1.6 December 17, 2013, the Compact's public comment period on the Updated Aggregation Plan opened.
- 1.7 December 17, 2013, the Compact Administrator electronically sent the Updated Aggregation Plan to all twenty-three Compact Members, along with a memorandum summarizing the proposed revisions. In addition, the Compact staff met with most of the Compact member towns and counties to provide information and answer questions regarding the proposed revisions.
- 1.8 January 9, 2014, the Compact Board continued its discussions of the proposed revisions.
- 1.9 January 15, 16 and 30, 2014, informational sessions on the Updated Aggregation Plan were held in Mashpee, Orleans, and Oak Bluffs, respectively.
- 1.10 January 23, 2014, the Compact Administrator met with a representative from the Attorney General's Office to discuss the Updated Aggregation Plan. The Attorney General requested the Compact consider an addition to the Aggregation Plan. After consideration by the Compact Board, the Compact included the suggested addition.
- 1.11 February 7, 2014, the Compact's public comment period closed. The Compact received 65 letters in support of the proposed revisions and 14 letters opposing the proposed revisions. The Compact Board was provided all of the letters.
- 1.12 February 26, 2014, the DPU directed the Compact to file its Updated Aggregation Plan no later than April 4, 2014.
- 1.13 March 12, 2014, the Compact Governing Board discussed and reviewed additional proposed revisions from its Members, the DOER, Attorney General, and the public. The Compact Board voted and approved the filing of its Updated Aggregation Plan with the DPU.
- 1.14 March 25, 2014, the Compact completed its consultation with DOER.
- 1.15 April 3, 2014, the Compact filed its Updated Aggregation Plan with the DPU.
- 1.16 August 20, 2014, at the direction of Department Staff, the Compact filed revisions to its Updated Aggregation Plan.

## **2.0 THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS OF THE COMPACT PROGRAM**

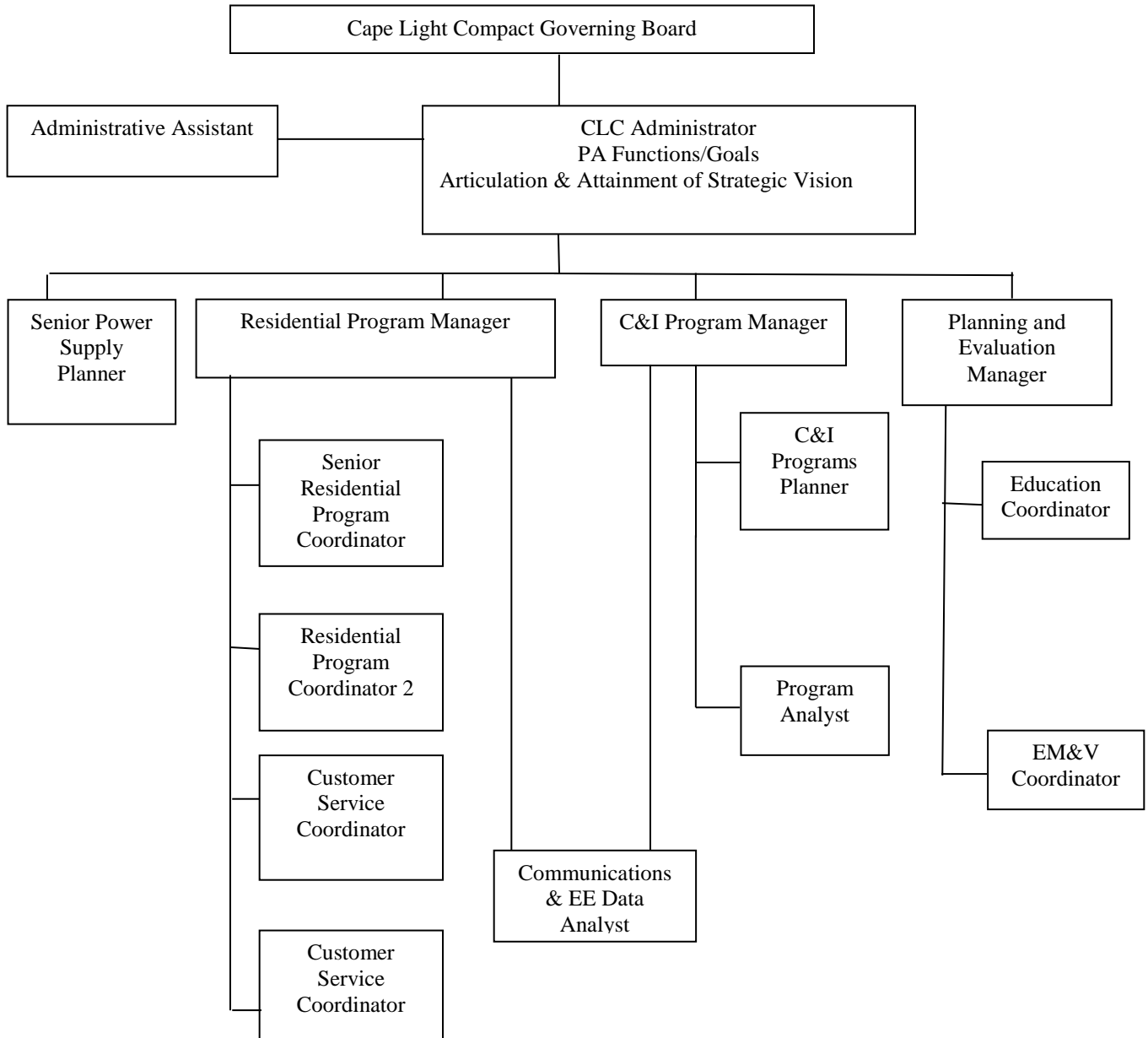
The Compact is organized in accordance with state law. It is an intergovernmental organization authorized by votes of town meeting, boards of selectmen, town council, and county commissioners. It consists of twenty-one towns and Barnstable and Dukes counties. Its articles of organization comprise a formal Inter-Governmental Agreement signed by each participating town or county member. Membership provides voting rights and inclusion for planning, analysis, and participation in Compact programs. The organization relies on the existing structure of local and county government and agreements between government agencies.

The Compact Governing Board is made up of one representative appointed by each of the member municipalities and the two counties, as well as an alternate representative that each member and county may appoint. The term of each Compact Governing Board member varies depending upon the member town/county. Presently, there are some members serving a fixed term and some serving at the pleasure of the municipality. The Compact Governing Board is responsible for establishment of the policies and development of the Compact, except with respect to those powers reserved to the member municipalities of the Compact by law or the Inter-Governmental Agreement.

At its first meeting following the end of each calendar year, the Compact Governing Board elects a chairman, vice chairman, treasurer, and secretary, and such other officers as the Governing Board may determine. The term of office is one year and until respective successors are elected and qualified.

The Compact Governing Board and its officers are responsive and responsible to consumers and the Boards of Selectmen and Town Manager/Town Council. The operational role of the Compact in relation to consumers and Boards of Selectmen and Town Council is outlined and described in the following pages.

# CAPE LIGHT COMPACT Organizational Structure





## **2.1 Description of Operational Units**

There are five operational units to the Compact as described below.

### **Unit One: Consumers**

Consumers hold the ultimate authority over the Compact and its functions. They can make determinations on local authority, policy, and programs at town meetings. They can elect candidates for Boards of Selectmen or Town Council who may take positions regarding the Compact. They can express their views to their local Compact representative. They can participate in local and regional meetings and hearings regarding issues related to the Compact and they can attend Compact meetings to express their views.

In addition, every consumer in a participating town is eligible to participate in the Compact's programs. Every consumer also has the ability to decline supply service through the Compact and choose any other power supply option available. Consumers who are dissatisfied with services provided under contracts negotiated by the Compact may also communicate directly with the Compact Governing Board in an effort to alter or otherwise improve services. Consumers may also bring issues before their Boards of Selectmen, Town Council, or town meeting.

### **Unit Two: Board of Selectmen and/or Town Manager**

Based upon their existing authority, or authority provided by voters at town meetings, the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager may act through their appointed Board members on program and policy issues and contract recommendations. In addition, they may provide instructions to their representative on the Compact Governing Board regarding specific policy or program decisions to be made by the Compact. They may also raise issues directed to them by consumers for the Compact to address.

### **Unit Three: Compact Governing Board**

The Compact Governing Board carries out the collective decisions and instructions of the towns and consumers. Every member town that signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement has a representative on the Compact Board. Policy and program decisions are made on a one-town-one-vote basis. However, issues with financial implications for the towns are made on the basis of a weighted vote. A weighted voting process also allows separate determinations by Barnstable County and Dukes County towns. The Compact's subcommittees focus on particular issues and bring policy decisions back to the Governing Board. The Governing Board determines recommendations to be made to the Boards of Selectmen and Town Council and to the two Counties. (The list of current representatives is available on the Compact's website at [www.capelightcompact.org](http://www.capelightcompact.org).)

## Unit Four: Barnstable County

Barnstable County serves as the Compact's procurement agent for all matters related to the procurement of basic goods and services, i.e. office supplies and equipment. The Compact's Chief Procurement Officer ("CPO"), appointed by the Governing Board, procures all other services for both the Compact's energy efficiency and power supply activities, except for certain energy efficiency contracts that are procured on a statewide basis. In addition, Barnstable County, under an Administrative Services Agreement, provides office and meeting space and administrative support to coordinate the Compact's operations contingent upon the Compact's approval.

## Unit Five: Service Suppliers

Power suppliers contract with the Compact through its CPO. The Power Supply Program is negotiated, recommended, and monitored for compliance by the Compact through its CPO and/or the CPO's designee. The CPO reports the results of power supply bids and associated negotiations to the Governing Board.

Contracts with consultants, vendors of energy efficiency or demand side management services, or other services negotiated and recommended by the Compact, are administered by Barnstable County on behalf of the Compact.

## **2.2 Program Operations**

The Compact's operations are guided by the provisions and goals contained in the Inter-Governmental Agreement, and the instructions and decisions of the Compact Governing Board, Boards of Selectmen, Town Council, and consumers.

The Compact's goals are outlined in the Inter-Governmental Agreement, and the Inter-Governmental Agreement has been amended by the Governing Board five times since 1998 to reflect changes in the Compact's structure, operations and purposes as follows:

### Power Supply Goals:

- 1) To provide the basis for aggregation of all consumers on a non-discriminatory basis;
- 2) To negotiate the best terms and conditions and the most competitive market rates available for electricity supply and transparent pricing;
- 3) To explore all available options for negotiating the best terms and conditions for electricity supply and the development of renewable energy resources, including, among other things, the formation of and/or membership in a co-operative organization to purchase or produce energy or renewable energy certificates ("RECs") or both on a long-term basis;
- 4) To provide equal sharing of economic savings based on current electric rates and/or cost-of-service rate-making approved by the DPU;
- 5) To provide and enhance consumer protection and options for service under contract provisions and to allow those consumers who choose not to participate to opt-out;
- 6) To improve quality and reliability of service;

- 7) To encourage environmental protection through contract provisions;
- 8) To utilize and encourage renewable energy development to the extent practicable through contract provisions, demonstration projects and state mandated system benefit charges for renewable energy;
- 9) To advance specific community goals that may be selected from time to time, such as placing utility wires underground;
- 10) To provide full public accountability to consumers; and
- 11) To utilize municipal and other powers and authorities that constitute basic consumer protection to achieve these goals.

#### Energy Efficiency Goals:

- 1) To utilize and encourage demand-side management and other forms of energy efficiency through contract provisions and state mandated system benefit charges for energy efficiency and to use the funds from such charges to advance consumer awareness and adoption of a wide variety of energy efficiency measures through the implementation of an energy efficiency plan;
- 2) To provide full public accountability to consumers; and
- 3) To utilize municipal and other powers and authorities that constitute basic consumer protection to achieve these goals.

### **2.3 Programs of the Compact**

The Compact offers two programs to achieve its goals: 1) the Power Supply Program and 2) the Statewide Three-Year Energy Efficiency Program. In addition, the Compact provides professional representation on behalf of consumers in state proceedings and in negotiations with the Local Distribution Company to protect consumer interests in today's energy marketplace.

#### **2.3.1 Power Supply Program (“Power Supply Program”)**

The Power Supply Program is designed to reduce the amount consumers pay for electric energy and to gain other favorable economic and non-economic terms in service contracts. The Compact does not buy and resell power, but represents consumer interests to set the terms for service. Through a competitive bid and negotiation process, the Compact, through its CPO, develops a contract with a power supplier for firm, all-requirements service. The contract runs for a fixed term (i.e. four years). In order to begin the Power Supply Program, the Compact's price had to be lower than the distribution company's standard offer service. The Compact met this threshold with its initial power supply price. There is no longer a statutory price benchmark for municipal aggregators. The Compact's power supply price complies with the requirements under G.L. c. 164, §134.

The process of supply contract approval contains checks and balances. After the Compact's form of all-requirements competitive electric supply contract was developed by the CPO, it was submitted to the DPU for its approval. The Compact's form of all-requirements competitive electric supply contract was approved by the DPU in D.T.E. 04-32 (2004). All electric supply contracts approved by the Compact's CPO since 2004 have been in substantially the same form as the contract approved by the DPU.

At the direction of the Governing Board, the Compact's Power Supply Program also includes the following components:

1. The CPO explores all available options for negotiating the best terms and conditions for electricity supply and the development of renewable energy resources, including, among other things, the formation of and/or membership in a co-operative organization to purchase or produce energy or RECs or both on a long-term basis;
2. The CPO communicates the Compact's power supply prices by: 1) discussing at the Governing Board meeting in public session; 2) posting the prices for all customer sectors to the Compact's website; and 3) paid advertisements in all daily and weekly newspapers on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard;
3. Ongoing coordination with the Local Distribution Company concerning billing and other operational needs;
4. Ongoing customer communication and education about the Compact's Power Supply Program; and
5. Ongoing consumer advocacy and representation at the state level through participation in DPU proceedings, the legislative development process, the stakeholder community and before other regulatory and governmental bodies.

And lastly, individual consumers may opt-out of the program at any time, and select Basic Service through the Local Distribution Company or electric service from any other competitive supplier available, in accordance with the terms and conditions of service offered by the Local Distribution Company or such other competitive supplier. (See Section 12.3 for more detailed information on the opt-out process.) No member town is required to participate in municipal power supply contracts, and no individual consumer is required to receive service under the Compact power supply contract. Consumers may also return to the Compact's Power Supply Program.

#### 2.3.1.1 Staffing and Manpower for the Power Supply Program

The operations necessary to plan, deliver, and manage the Compact's Power Supply Program include: 1) technical analysis; 2) competitive procurement of services; 3) regulatory approvals; 4) accounting and fiscal management; 5) contract maintenance; 6) communications; 7) program coordination; and 8) administrative support for the Compact Governing Board. The Compact's power supply staff are funded through the Compact's operational adder, collected through its power supply contract (discussed below at Section 3.0). Experienced consultants and legal counsel work under contract for the Compact.

The Power Supply Program has been developed by the Compact Governing Board with the support of technical consultants and legal counsel. Now that a contract for power supply has been secured, technical consultants and legal counsel are used on an as-needed basis to assist the Governing Board in carrying out the goals of the Compact set forth in the Inter-Governmental Agreement.

Negotiations with the Local Distribution Company and representation at the state level are undertaken as needed at the direction of the Compact Governing Board through technical and legal advisors.

### 2.3.1.2

[INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

## 2.3.2 Renewable Energy Option

The Compact offers an opt-in green power program to customers called *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>*. *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* is a REC-based product. Customers that enroll in *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* receive all-requirements power supply through the same contract that governs the provision of energy to all customers in the Compact's aggregation in addition to RECs proportional to their consumption. The Compact is responsible for purchasing RECs for *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>*. The price for *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* is set by the Compact. The following is a summary of how *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* RECs are purchased and how customers participate in *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>*:

- a) In procuring RECs for *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>*, the Compact focuses on long-term contracts with local projects, ensuring stable premiums and promoting local renewable energy projects. These contracts are generally unit contingent. The Compact's approach has been to sign contracts projected to generate more RECs than will be necessary for *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* with the knowledge that the Compact can sell RECs not needed for the program to other entities. While a preference is given to local projects, the Compact negotiates prices that are in line with markets and will consider an off-Cape and Vineyard project if necessary to obtain market prices. This work is informed by the Compact's experience in the REC markets and may be supplemented by a subscription to a REC price forecasting service or expert outside consultants to help ensure a fair price.
- b) Customers may opt into *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* by calling a toll-free number operated by the Compact's current supplier. The number is exclusively for Compact customers, and is used for all power supply enrollment and billing questions. The premium for the green product generally appears on the customer's bill at the end of the next full billing cycle after the customer enrolls – comparable to a customer signing up for any competitive supply product.
- c) Customers may leave the optional green program at any time without any penalties by calling the same toll-free number used for enrollment. The premium for the green product is generally removed from the customer's bill at the end of the next full billing cycle after the customer calls to leave the green program – comparable to a customer dropping any competitive supply product.
- d) Pricing for the Compact's optional green power programs is set as fixed premiums above the Compact's price for all-requirements power supply in effect at the time. The premiums for the two *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* products (100% and 50%) are set to recover the cost of REC purchases, marketing, administrative and other program related expenses.

- e) Pricing and other information for *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* is available on the Compact’s website at [www.capelightcompact.org/clcgreen](http://www.capelightcompact.org/clcgreen). Pricing is provided for the cost of both the all-requirements power supply and the additional RECs, as opposed to just the premium itself, to minimize confusion. The Compact advertises changes in pricing for its power supply aggregation in all of the Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard daily and weekly papers – pricing for the optional green products are included in these notices. The Compact has begun running quarterly notices in the same publications highlighting the content of both the aggregation’s regular mix and the voluntary green power products. This information is also available on the Compact’s website.

### **2.3.3 Statewide Three-Year Energy Efficiency Investment Program (“Energy Efficiency Program”)**

While the Power Supply Program is designed to reduce the cost of a kilowatt hour of energy, the Energy Efficiency Program is aimed at total bill reduction. Wise use of energy also promotes important environmental and social benefits. Energy efficiency or demand side management includes practices, technology and education to advance methods for reducing energy use and monthly bills for residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal consumers. The purpose of the Compact’s Energy Efficiency Program is to return maximum benefits to consumers who are providing the majority of the energy efficiency funds and to provide building blocks for market transformation. [Market transformation is an ongoing process in which program subsidies for various measures are periodically recalibrated as particular measures successfully transform the market and efficient products and technologies continue to evolve and new or enhanced measures merit program subsidies. Market transformation is a dynamic process.]

In order to administer the Energy Efficiency Program, a municipal aggregator must first receive DPU approval of its municipal aggregation plan and offer universal service as a power supply option to all classes of customers pursuant to the approved aggregation plan. The Energy Efficiency Program is the result of an iterative process that includes review by the Compact’s Governing Board, Cape and Vineyard consumers, as well as other stakeholders and approval by the DPU to ensure compliance with current law and consistency with state energy goals. The Compact’s Energy Efficiency Plan is submitted to the Compact Board for approval prior to submission for DPU approval.

Pursuant to the Green Communities Act, St. 2008, c. 169, (the “Act”), as well as G.L. c. 164, §134, the Compact’s Energy Efficiency Program follows a process outlined in law for aggregated municipalities to access funds contributed by consumers for purposes of funding energy efficiency programs. The Compact also makes every effort to secure grants or other monies available for energy efficiency program administration. The budget for the Energy Efficiency Program is specified in the Compact’s Three-Year Plan, as approved by the DPU. The Compact’s energy efficiency staff is fully funded through the Energy Efficiency Program.

The Energy Efficiency Program is managed by the Compact’s team of experienced energy efficiency staff and management consultants who assist in the oversight of service delivery. Service delivery for the Energy Efficiency Program is carried out by vendors. Vendors and other consultants are procured through a competitive contracting process, in accordance with public

procurement law, as well as the statewide procurement process utilized by the Program Administrators of Energy Efficiency Programs to carry out the goals of the Act.

The current Compact Energy Efficiency Plan is available on the Compact's website, [www.capelightcompact.org](http://www.capelightcompact.org).

#### **2.3.4 Professional Representation**

As the electric industry continues to evolve and change, it is essential for Cape and Vineyard consumers to have technical and legal support to represent their interests in selected state proceedings and in negotiations with the Local Distribution Company. These efforts also attempt to improve reliability, which may result in fewer power outages and faster restoration of service.

### **3.0 PROGRAM FUNDING**

Initial development of the Compact was funded as part of the Barnstable County budget through appropriations by the County. As of July 2012, Barnstable County ceased to appropriate funds for the Compact.

Aside from any funds that may be appropriated through a public process by the counties, the Compact may collect a kilowatt hour charge, equivalent of up to a mil per kilowatt hour, from consumers participating in the Compact's Power Supply Program. The power supply price on all consumer bills reflects all charges for the administrative and operational costs of the Power Supply Program. The operational adder ("Operational Adder") is collected by the Compact's competitive electric supplier on behalf of the Compact. The Compact's supplier may collect up to 1 mil (\$.001), or such lower amount as the Compact may determine, for every kWh sold to consumers for the duration of service under the competitive electric supply agreement. The Compact's supplier remits these funds to the Compact within thirty (30) days of the end of the month.

The Compact began using an adder for its operations expenses in September, 2002. The Compact determined the adder amount, up to 1 mil, as part of the development of the terms and conditions of its competitive electric supply agreement. The primary use of the Operational Adder funds is to support the Compact's annual power supply operational budget and other costs associated with implementing its programs. The Compact has also utilized some of the Operational Adder funds to support renewable energy development by the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc., a sister organization comprised of the Compact's member counties and all but two of the Compact's member towns.

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, staff works with the Compact's Board Treasurer to prepare a proposed operating budget. When preparing a new Compact annual budget, the process begins with discussions by and between the Compact Board and Compact staff at regularly scheduled Board meetings that involve, among other things, a review of the prior year budget and projections for the coming year. The level of the Operational Adder is determined during this process and is based upon the projected expenses of the Compact. At the Compact Board meeting, staff addresses questions from the Compact Board on the proposed budget. Sometimes additional information is requested on specific expenditures, which is provided by staff. The Compact Board may decide to approve the budget after one meeting or the Board may elect to continue deliberating to its next regularly scheduled meeting. Approving the operating budget is by a weighted vote based on Compact Member population. The budget is posted to the Compact's website. Throughout the fiscal year, the Compact Treasurer presents, at each Compact Board meeting, a Treasurer's Report which provides an overview of the year-to-date revenues and expenses relating to the Compact's power supply and other Compact activities, e.g. energy efficiency.

In 2013, the Compact Governing Board approved a policy that requires use of any portion of the Operational Adder/power supply reserve fund shall follow the Compact's budget appropriation process.

The unreserved portion of the Operational Adder/power supply reserve fund, after appropriation of the annual power supply operating budget, shall not exceed:

1. The subsequent year's REC commitment;
2. The average of the previous three years' power supply operating budget;
3. The historical cost of procuring a new supplier should the existing contract terminate; and
4. Adequate funds for REC contractual obligations such as escrow accounts and other sureties.

At the end of each fiscal year, any appropriations from the Operational Adder/power supply reserve fund, as well as examination of the power supply fund itself, will be subject to review by a certified independent financial auditor.

All Compact funds are included in the fiscal agent's (Barnstable County) annual financial audit as agency funds.

#### **4.0 TERMINATION OF THE POWER SUPPLY PROGRAM**

The Power Supply Program may be terminated, as set forth below:

Upon the termination or expiration of the power supply contract without any extension, renewal or subsequent supply contract being negotiated.

At the decision of the Compact Governing Board to dissolve the Power Supply Program.



The Compact's Power Supply Program would be terminated should the Compact, based upon an available lower basic service price, decide to switch its customers from its Power Supply Program to basic service.

In addition, if a Compact Member municipality withdraws from the Compact, that Member municipality's municipal aggregation program is terminated.

Any termination of the Power Supply Program, in its entirety or in part, must be conducted in compliance with the DPU's conditions for termination established in D.T.E. 00-47 and subsequent pertinent orders.

The Local Distribution Company will receive notice of termination as follows: 1) ninety (90) day notice prior to a planned termination of the Compact's Aggregation Plan; 2) ninety (90) day notice prior to the end of the anticipated term of its Program's electric service agreement ("ESA"); and 3) a four-business day notice of the successful negotiation of a new ESA that extends the date at which aggregation participants would otherwise return to basic service. Additionally, each individual customer receiving power supply service under the Compact's Power Supply Program will receive notification of termination of the program ninety (90) days prior to such termination.

In the event of termination of the Power Supply Program, in whole or in part, consumers would return to the Local Distribution Company's basic service or choose another competitive supplier.

## **5.0 METHODS FOR ENTERING AND TERMINATING AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ENTITIES**

The Compact's process for entering, modifying, enforcing, and terminating agreements shall comply with the requirements of town charters, and state and federal laws. Where required, the procedures outlined in G.L. c. 30B shall be followed. Other agreements, such as the Inter-Governmental Agreement, shall be entered, modified, or terminated in compliance with the law and according to the express provisions of the relevant agreement.

Summary of Process to Solicit Bids for an ESA:

1. Compact, under the direction of the CPO, prepares and reviews the Request for Proposals ("RFP") and ESA to ensure they are complete and accurate.
2. Compact distributes the RFP to competitive suppliers that are qualified to carry out the obligations of the ESA. Factors considered in making this determination include a supplier's size and financial security, experience serving customers in Massachusetts, and reputation.
3. Suppliers interested in responding to the RFP execute a Confidentiality Agreement with the Compact.
4. Upon receipt of an executed Confidentiality Agreement, Compact provides electric account information with suppliers including current enrollment and hourly load data.
5. Suppliers submit questions to the Compact on the RFP, with responses going to all of the suppliers.

6. Suppliers and Compact enter into a contract negotiation process, resulting in contracts acceptable to both the Compact and prospective bidders.
  - a. Compact staff, select Compact Board members, counsel and consultants are responsible for these negotiations.
  - b. All Compact Board members are invited to participate in the negotiation, meetings and bid review for the RFP process.
7. Suppliers submit bids, as firm prices or pricing strategies, to Compact. If pricing a strategy is proposed, Compact meets with suppliers upon receipt of price bids.
  - a. Compact staff, select Compact Board members, counsel and consultants are responsible for these negotiations.
  - b. All Compact Board members are invited to participate in the negotiation, meetings and bid review for the RFP process.
8. CPO selects and executes ESA on Compact's behalf.
9. Compact notifies customers of new ESA and prices.
  - a. Posts prices on the Compact's website.
  - b. Publishes public notice in all of the Cape and Vineyard daily and weekly printed newspapers.
  - c. Issues a press release and posts on social media.

## **6.0 RATESETTING AND OTHER COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS**

The Compact will offer the option of its Power Supply Program at rates and terms to be negotiated with competitive power suppliers. The generation charge/supplier charge for each customer class, or any customer grouping by load factor or other appropriate pricing category, will reflect the Compact's best efforts to secure the best terms and conditions and the most competitive market rates available at the time of contracting with competitive power suppliers. Due to fluctuations in competitive electric market prices and basic service rates, Compact generation/supplier charges may not always be lower, and are not required to be lower, than the Local Distribution Company's basic service rate. The Compact's potential pursuit of a higher percentage of renewable energy than required under the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard ("RPS") may also result in rates higher than basic service. All supplier charges to the customer will be fully and prominently disclosed under the notification process.

The Local Distribution Company shall continue to provide metering, billing, and maintenance of the distribution system as a regulated monopoly function until such time as the DPU determines it is in the interest of consumers for these services to be provided differently. Charges for metering, billing and other distribution services shall be regulated by the DPU, unless otherwise provided for in law, or DPU rules and regulations.

### **6.1 Rates and Ratesetting**

Under DPU orders, the Local Distribution Company assigns the customer classification and corresponding character of service and associated regulated rates. These rates include a monthly customer charge, a distribution charge, a transmission charge, and an access charge that currently make up the largest portion of a customer bill. Although the Compact shall participate in regulatory proceedings and represent the interests of consumers regarding these regulated rates,

it does not plan to assign or alter existing customer classifications. In the event that the Compact does seek to change rate classifications, it will secure any necessary approvals.

The focus of the Compact, as noted above, will be acquisition of competitive prices and terms for power supply. This price, or prices, will be set through the competitive bid and negotiation process, and will be noted on the consumer bill as the “generation charge.” The price in the contract is subject to any requirements set forth in G.L. c. 164, §134, as well as approval by the Compact’s CPO.

On its website ([www.capelightcompact.org](http://www.capelightcompact.org)), the Compact maintains its current power supply rates for each rate class and the period for which the current rates apply. The Compact also provides an active link to the Local Distribution Company’s Basic Service Rate, DPU website, and to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs website for a list of licensed competitive electric suppliers. The Compact cannot ensure or verify the accuracy of the information provided by other service providers.

## **6.2 Customer Billing**

Customer billings under the Power Supply Program will be made by the supplier under contract and shall be incorporated into the standard monthly utility billing. The bill shall include a clear delineation of all regulated and non-regulated charges. Under law, consumers are entitled to a choice of one or two bills. They may receive a “complete bill” that incorporates the power supply charge and the Local Distribution Company’s charges on a single sheet; or a “pass-through bill” which is a separate bill issued by the power supplier in addition to the bill from the Local Distribution Company. For purposes of clarity and simplicity, the Compact recommends that consumers elect to receive a “complete bill” with all charges on a single sheet. However, consumers may make their own choice on this issue, except in the event that the Compact’s supplier under contract is a participant in the Local Distribution Company’s purchase of receivables program, in which case the terms of the purchase of receivables program require the customer to receive a complete bill.

## **7.0 UNIVERSAL ACCESS**

“Universal access” is a term derived from the traditional regulated utility environment in which all customers desiring service receive that service. For the purposes of the Compact’s municipal aggregation program this will mean that all existing customers within the borders of participating municipalities, and all new customers in the participating municipalities, shall be eligible for service from the contracted supplier under the terms and conditions of the supply contract. Item one of the Compact’s goals contained in the Inter-Governmental Agreement is: “To provide the basis for aggregation of all consumers on a non-discriminatory basis.”

Service under the Compact’s Power Supply Program shall include all customer classes in adherence with universal service principles and requirements, and the traditional non-discriminatory practices of local government. Contracts with all suppliers shall contain provisions to maintain these principles and equitable treatment of all customer classes.

Existing customers in the participating towns shall be transferred to the Power Supply Program unless they have already contracted with a competitive supplier, or affirmatively opt-out of the program.

Low-income consumers shall remain subject to all existing provisions of state law regarding their rights to return to Basic Service through the Local Distribution Company and/or participate in the Power Supply Program as well.

New customers in the service territory upon sign up for service will be automatically enrolled in the Power Supply Program with the right to opt-out at any time.

## **8.0 EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF ALL CLASSES OF CUSTOMERS**

All customers will be treated equitably. They will be guaranteed the right to raise and resolve disputes with the supplier; be provided all required notices and information; and always retain the right to opt-out of the Compact's program.

## **9.0 REPORTING**

The Compact, in accordance with DPU directives, will submit an annual report to the DPU. The report will be filed in a manner prescribed by the DPU. The initial report will be filed on December 1, 2014 and will include: 1) a list of the Compact's competitive suppliers over the past year; 2) the term of each power supply contract; 3) the aggregation's monthly enrollment statistics by customer class; 4) a brief description of any renewable energy supply options and other renewable energy features that exceed minimum requirements; and 5) a discussion and documentation regarding the implementation of the municipal aggregation's alternative information disclosure strategy, to the extent applicable.

## **10.0 RELIABILITY**

"Reliability" in power supply and in transmission and distribution is essential to consumers. The Compact's policy, as set forth in the goals of the Inter-Governmental Agreement is: "To improve quality of service and reliability." This will be accomplished and reinforced at several levels: 1) through provisions of the power supply contract that will include language on reliability of supply, liability and damages provisions; 2) through traditional proceedings related to the Local Distribution Company's regulated transmission and distribution services; and 3) through direct discussions with the Local Distribution Company concerning specific or general problems related to quality and reliability of transmission and distribution service.

## **11.0 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF POWER SUPPLY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

### **11.1 Rights**

All Compact Power Supply Program participants shall enjoy the protections of law afforded to consumers as they currently exist or as they may be amended from time to time. Compact customers with questions regarding enrollment, billing, and other similar issues are directed to the toll-free number operated by the Compact's supplier for Compact customers. Customers with more detailed questions or questions directed to the Compact itself are forwarded by the Compact's supplier to the Compact's Senior Power Supply Planner for a response. Customers may also contact the DPU's Consumer Division with unresolved issues.

All program participants shall also enjoy the individual right to decline participation in the Power Supply Program as noted in the description of the "opt-out" in Section 12.2 below.

### **11.2 Responsibilities**

All Power Supply Program participants shall meet all standards and responsibilities required by the DPU, including payment of billings and access to essential metering and other equipment to carry out utility operations.

## **12.0 THE CONSEQUENCES OF AGGREGATION**

Municipal aggregation functions under the restrictions of state law and carries a range of results and consequences:

### **12.1 Consumer Option to Participate in Competitive Market**

Many individual consumers lack knowledge and leverage to negotiate terms for power supply. A municipal aggregator provides them with an option for professional representation and the leverage of a large group so that they may more effectively participate in the competitive process and achieve benefits.

### **12.2 Consumer Ability to Opt-Out and Choose Another Supplier**

Because the law guarantees the right to opt-out, including the right to choose Basic Service at no charge for 180 days, all customers have the right to select a supplier other than the one chosen by the Compact. A customer may opt-out, or opt back in, by calling a toll free number operated by the Compact's current supplier. The Compact does not charge a fee for opting out of the Compact's Power Supply Program.

Customers that have opted out of the Compact's Power Supply Program may opt back in, but the Compact's current contract with its supplier does allow the supplier, at its discretion, to charge returning customers a price that is different from the price in effect for customers under the Compact's contract with the supplier at that time. This provision protects both the supplier and

the Compact's other customers from individuals that might switch to variable-priced products when market prices are low and back to fixed-price products during high-priced months.

The rights of customers seeking to opt back in to the Compact's Power Supply Program during the term of an ESA is a part of the Compact's negotiation for new ESAs, and at times, may differ somewhat from the rights described above.

In addition, the Local Distribution Company's electric distribution service tariff currently contains the following provision that imposes conditions upon when a customer in the Compact's service territory may switch from basic service to a competitive supplier:

The Company shall reasonably accommodate a change from Standard Offer Service, Default Service or Generation Service to a new Competitive Supplier in accordance with the Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers, and shall accommodate a change to Standard Offer Service or Default Service from Generation Service; provided, however, that when a Customer changes from a Competitive Supplier to Default Service, unless the Customer or the Customer's applicable Competitive Supplier can demonstrate to the Company's reasonable satisfaction that the Customer has been placed on Default Service upon the expiration of a contract with such Competitive Supplier, the Customer is not permitted to return to the same Competitive Supplier for a period of six (6) months from the effective date of the change. Customers are permitted to switch from Default Service to a different Competitive Supplier who has not supplied the Customer with Generation Service in the same six (6) month period.

NSTAR Electric Company Terms and Conditions for Distribution Service, M.D.T.E. No. 300A (February 1, 2006) at 5F.

### **12.3 Indemnification of Consumers and Risk Associated with Competitive Market**

In a competitive market it is possible that the failure of a power supplier to deliver service may result in the need for consumers to acquire alternative power supply, or for consumers to receive power at Basic Service prices. The Compact will seek to minimize this risk by recommending only reputable suppliers who demonstrate reliable service. The Compact also intends to include conditions in its contract with a supplier that will indemnify consumers against risks or problems with power supply service.

### **12.4 Other Consumer Protections**

The Compact will negotiate a range of provisions in its contracts to enhance consumer protection. The Compact also intends to work with the Local Distribution Company and the DPU to assure improvement in the reliability of transmission and distribution services.

### **13.0 MEET ANY REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY LAW OR THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING AGGREGATED SERVICE**

The Compact fully intends to comply with the requirements of law and the rules of the DPU.

### **14.0 UPDATING THE COMPACT'S AGGREGATION PLAN**

In accordance with DPU 12-124, the Compact will update its Aggregation Plan should the Compact seek to materially deviate from its approved plan or if changes in the law, regulations, the competitive supply market, or other circumstances result in the approved plan no longer accurately describing the primary operations of the Compact's aggregation. Prior to filing a revised plan with the DPU, the Compact will consult with DOER, submit the revised plan for review by its citizens, and obtain all necessary approvals. Beyond these circumstances, however, the Compact will not seek to update its Aggregation Plan for the continued operation of the Compact's programs. The Compact and the Compact Members also may make periodic updates to the Inter-Governmental Agreement.

**ATTACHMENT C**  
**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**



# **JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT OF THE CAPE LIGHT COMPACT JPE**

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This Joint Powers Agreement (“Agreement”) is effective as of the date set forth in Article I(A) (Effective Date; Formation) below, and is entered into by and among the municipalities and counties listed on Exhibit A hereto (the “Members”), pursuant to the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, §4A ½ and G.L. c. 164, §134.

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Restructuring Act of 1997 (the “Act”) was enacted during a period where Federal Law allowed for the restructuring of existing electric utilities into separate generation, transmission and distribution companies and, accordingly, the Act set forth a framework for the competitive supply of electric generation service to Massachusetts electric customers and allowed electric customers to choose their electric power supplier; and

WHEREAS, the Cape Light Compact (“Compact”) was entered into with the County of Barnstable, County of Dukes County and the municipalities legally joining therein, pursuant to the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, §4A, through an original Inter-Governmental Agreement effective as of October, 1997 which has been amended from time to time (most recently in November of 2015) and is due to expire in October of 2022 (the “IGA”); and

WHEREAS, under the authority of G.L. c. 164, §134, G.L. c. 25A, §6 and pursuant to the original Inter-Governmental Agreement, adopted October, 1997, as amended, the Compact developed a municipal aggregation plan, setting forth the structure, operations, services, funding and policies of the Compact, approved in D.T.E. 00-47 (August 10, 2000) and approved as updated in D.P.U. 14-69 (May 1, 2015; May 18, 2015); and

WHEREAS, the Compact currently operates a municipal aggregation competitive supply program pursuant to a municipal aggregation plan, setting forth the structure, operations, services, funding and policies of the Compact as most recently approved and updated in D.P.U. 14-69 (May 1, 2015; May 18, 2015) which provides electric power supply on an opt-out basis to customers across all customer classes located on Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard and the Compact also provides comprehensive energy efficiency services to Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard through the Cape Light Compact Energy Efficiency Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Compact’s members to transfer its administrative, fiscal and operational functions to a new independent legal entity, a joint powers entity, prior to expiration of the IGA; and

WHEREAS, members of joint powers entities are afforded express liability protection

from the acts and omissions of the entity and the other participating members; and

WHEREAS, joint powers entities are conferred many express powers by law that are not available to the Compact, including the ability to employ staff; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Members hereby enter into this Agreement and, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 4A½, hereby form a body politic and corporate.

**ARTICLE I: EFFECTIVE DATE; FORMATION; MEMBERSHIP; LIABILITY OF MEMBERS**

**A. Effective Date; Formation.**

This Agreement shall become effective and the joint powers entity shall exist as a separate public entity on such date as this Agreement is executed by at least two (2) municipal members of the Compact after authorization by each municipal member’s Board of Selectmen or other governing body as set forth in G.L. c. 40, §4A½ (as may be amended from time to time, the “Joint Powers Statute”). Such date shall be referred to herein as the “Effective Date.” There is formed as of the Effective Date a separate public entity named the Cape Light Compact JPE. The Cape Light Compact JPE shall provide notice to the Members of the Effective Date. The Cape Light Compact JPE shall continue to exist, and this Agreement shall be effective, until this Agreement is terminated or expires in accordance with Article XVI (Term; Termination; Withdrawal) , subject to the rights of the Members to withdraw from the Cape Light Compact JPE.

**B. Eligibility for Membership; Addition of Members.**

Municipal members of the Compact are eligible for full membership in the Cape Light Compact JPE. Municipal members of the Compact who become members of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall be referred to as “Municipal Members.” Barnstable County and Dukes County may participate as limited members as set forth in Article I(E) (County Members) below. This subsection may not be amended unless such amendment obtains the affirmative approval of the Municipal Members whose population is at least equal to 50% of the combined population of all of the Municipal Members of the Cape Light Compact JPE. Subject to the deadlines set forth in Article XVIII(C) (Transfer of Operations), a municipal member of the Compact may become a member of the Cape Light Compact JPE by duly executing this Agreement in accordance with the Joint Powers Statute and delivering an executed copy of this Agreement and a copy of the authorization, vote or resolution as required by the Joint Powers Statute to the Cape Light Compact JPE. The Members acknowledge that membership in the Cape Light Compact JPE may change by the addition and/or withdrawal of Members. The Members agree to participate with such other Members as may later be added. The Members also agree that the withdrawal by a Member shall not affect this Agreement or the remaining Members’ continuing obligations under this Agreement.

**C. Region.**

The region within which the powers and duties provided in this Agreement shall be exercised is Barnstable County and Dukes County. The foregoing sentence shall not be construed as a limitation on the Cape Light Compact JPE's powers in any way, including, but not limited to, its power to offer statewide programs or participate in statewide proceedings (as such programs or proceedings may affect the region), or its power to contract with persons or entities outside the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**D. Liability of Members.**

Members shall not be liable for the acts or omissions of other Members or the region or the Cape Light Compact JPE created by this Agreement, unless the Member has agreed otherwise in this Agreement, or as may be provided for in a separate contract between the Member and the Cape Light Compact JPE. This subsection may not be amended unless such amendment obtains the affirmative approval of the Municipal Members whose population is at least equal to fifty percent (50%) of the combined population of all of the Municipal Members of the Cape Light Compact JPE.

This Agreement is not intended to impose any independent financial liabilities on the Members. Each Member shall remain responsible for its own debts and other financial liabilities, except as specifically provided herein, or as may be provided for in a separate contract between a Member and the Cape Light Compact JPE.

**E. County Members.**

Barnstable County and Dukes County may participate as limited members of the Cape Light Compact JPE and shall be referred to herein as the "County Members," or collectively with the Municipal Members as the "Members." The County Members shall not be permitted to vote on matters concerning aggregated power supply, energy efficiency plans and programs or other such matters committed to municipal aggregators pursuant to any provision of the Massachusetts General Laws. Other limitations on the participation rights of County Members are set forth elsewhere in this Agreement.

A county member of the Compact may become a Member of the Cape Light Compact JPE by duly executing this Agreement in accordance with the Joint Powers Statute. Each County Member shall provide a duly authorized signature page for attachment hereto.

**ARTICLE II: GOALS; POLICIES; PURPOSES**

The Cape Light Compact JPE's goals, policies and purposes include, without limitation, the following:

- a) providing the basis for aggregation of all consumers on a non-discriminatory basis;

- b) negotiating the best terms and conditions for electricity supply and transparent pricing;
- c) exploring all available options for negotiating the best terms and conditions for electricity supply and the development of renewable energy resources, including, without limitation, the formation of and/or membership in a co-operative organization to purchase or produce energy or renewable energy certificates (“RECs”) or both on a long-term, basis;
- d) providing equal sharing of economic savings based on current electric rates and/or cost-of-service ratemaking approved by the Department of Public Utilities or its successor (“DPU”);
- e) providing and enhancing consumer protection and options for service under contract provisions and to allow those consumers who choose not to participate to opt-out;
- f) improving quality of service and reliability;
- g) encouraging environmental protection through contract provisions;
- h) utilizing and encouraging renewable energy development to the extent practicable through contract provisions, demonstration projects and state mandated system benefit charges for renewable energy;
- i) administering an energy efficiency plan that advances consumer awareness and the adoption of a wide variety of energy efficiency measures and that also utilizes and encourages demand side management, all through contract provisions, demonstration projects and the use of state mandated system benefit charges for energy efficiency and other related charges and funds;
- j) advancing specific community goals that may be selected from time to time, such as placing utility wires underground;
- k) providing full public accountability to consumers; and
- l) utilizing municipal and other powers and authorities that constitute basic consumer protection to achieve these goals.

The Cape Light Compact JPE shall accomplish the foregoing purposes through the following: (i) operation of energy efficiency programs; (ii) developing or promoting the development of renewable energy resources and projects; (iii) procuring competitive electric supply for its customers; (iv) procuring RECs; (v) participating in regulatory and legislative proceedings; and (vi) consumer advocacy.

### **ARTICLE III: POWERS OF THE CAPE LIGHT COMPACT JPE**

The Cape Light Compact JPE is a body politic and corporate with power to:

- a) sue and be sued;
- b) make, negotiate and execute contracts and other instruments necessary for the exercise of the powers of the region, provided, however, that any contract for the purchase of electric power supplies, distribution, transmission or metering, billing and information services or related to any of the foregoing, shall not impose direct or individual financial obligations on any Member until approved by such individual Member, as the case may be;
- c) make, amend and repeal policies and procedures relative to the operation of the region in accordance with the Joint Powers Statute and other limitations as may be applicable under state law;
- d) receive and expend funds, including funds derived from the state mandated system benefit charges and to use such funds in accordance with state law;
- e) apply for and receive grants from the commonwealth, the federal government and other public and private grantors;
- f) submit an annual report to each Member, which shall contain a detailed audited financial statement and a statement showing the method by which the annual charges assessed against each governmental unit (if any) were computed;
- g) borrow money, enter into long or short-term loan agreements or mortgages and apply for state, federal or corporate grants or contracts to obtain funds necessary to carry out the purposes of the Cape Light Compact JPE, provided, however, that such borrowing, loans or mortgages shall be consistent with this Agreement, standard lending practices and G.L. c. 44, §§16-28;
- h) subject to G.L. c. 30B (or other applicable procurement laws), enter into contracts for the purchase of supplies, materials and services and for the purchase or lease of land, buildings and equipment, as considered necessary by the Governing Board;
- i) as a public employer, to hire staff;
- j) to plan projects;
- k) to implement projects and/or conduct research;
- l) adopt an annual budget and to direct the expenditure of funds made available to the Cape Light Compact JPE by grant or contribution from public and private sector entities, or on account of any contract negotiated or administered by the Cape Light Compact JPE;

- m) to acquire property by gift, purchase or lease;
- n) to construct equipment and facilities;
- o) to apply for and receive contributions and other such financial assistance from public and private sector entities or to receive amounts derived as a portion of the savings on, or as a surcharge, dedicated mills/kilowatt hour fee or other such charge as part of any electric energy purchase or similar contract negotiated and/or administered by the Cape Light Compact JPE and, to the extent required herein, agreed to by each Member to be financially bound thereby;
- p) to engage consultants, attorneys, technical advisors and independent contractors;
- q) to adopt bylaws to govern its internal affairs;
- r) to reimburse persons who have advanced funds;
- s) to enforce agreements or otherwise prosecute claims on behalf of Members and coordinate their defense in any claim made against them relating to any agreement or other matter related to the Cape Light Compact JPE;
- t) to invest funds;
- u) to procure insurance;
- v) to obtain project-related financing through any mechanism such as the federal Clean Renewable Energy Bond program or similar or successor programs, and other financing options;
- w) to contract with an agent, including, without limitation, a regional government or a Member, to manage or accomplish any of its functions or objectives;
- x) to enter into agreements with state, quasi-state, county and municipal agencies, cooperatives, investor-owned utilities and other private entities, all as is convenient or necessary to manage or accomplish any of the Cape Light Compact JPE's functions or objectives; and
- y) any such other powers as are necessary to properly carry out its powers as a body politic and corporate.

**ARTICLE IV: SERVICES; ACTIVITIES; UNDERTAKINGS**

The services, activities or undertakings to be jointly performed within the region are as follows: (i) power supply procurement; (ii) offering of energy efficiency programs; (iii) participation in regulatory and legislative proceedings; (iv) education of the public and government regarding energy issues; and (v) such other services, activities, and undertakings as set forth in Article II (Goals, Policies; Purposes).

## **ARTICLE V: GOVERNING BOARD**

### **A. Powers of the Governing Board.**

In accordance with the Joint Powers Statute, the Cape Light Compact JPE shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of the Directors from the Municipal Members (the "Governing Board"). The Governing Board shall be responsible for the general management and supervision of the business and affairs of the Cape Light Compact JPE, except with respect to those powers reserved to the Members by law or this Agreement. The Governing Board shall coordinate the activities of the Cape Light Compact JPE and may establish any policies and procedures necessary to do so. The Governing Board may from time to time, to the extent permitted by law, delegate any of its powers to committees, subject to such limitations as the Governing Board may impose. The Governing Board may delegate to the Executive Committee (as set forth below in Article V(C) (Executive Committee) the powers to act for the Governing Board between regular or special meetings of the Governing Board. The Governing Board may designate persons or groups of persons as sponsors, benefactors, contributors, advisors or friends of the Cape Light Compact JPE or such other title as they may deem appropriate and as is consistent with applicable law.

The Governing Board shall establish and manage a fund or funds to which all monies contributed by the Members, and all grants and gifts from the federal or state government or any other source shall be deposited.

The Governing Board may borrow money, enter into long or short-term loan agreements or mortgages and apply for state, federal or corporate grants or contracts to obtain funds necessary to carry out the purposes of the Cape Light Compact JPE. The borrowing, loans or mortgages shall be consistent with this Agreement, standard lending practices and G.L. c. 44, §§ 16-28. The Governing Board may, subject to G.L. c. 30B (or other applicable procurement laws), enter into contracts for the purchase of supplies, materials and services and for the purchase or lease of land, buildings and equipment, as considered necessary by the Governing Board.

### **B. Number, Qualifications and Term of Office.**

The Governing Board shall consist of one Director for each Municipal Member. In the absence of a Director, his or her alternate shall be entitled to vote and otherwise exercise all of the powers of such Director. The Directors, and alternate directors, shall be selected by each Municipal Member in accordance with its municipal appointment rules and procedures and for such term as may be established by their respective appointing authorities. Except as hereinafter provided, the Directors (and alternates) shall hold office until the next selection of Directors (and alternates) by each such Member and until his or her successor is selected. Directors shall be subject to any limitations or direction established by their appointing authorities. The Cape Light Compact JPE shall not be responsible for interpreting or enforcing any such limitations that may be established by the appointing authorities. Further, any action on the part of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall not be rendered void or invalid as a result of a Director's failure to abide by any such limitations. The sole remedy of an appointing authority in such instance is to remove

and replace such Director.

Each County Member may appoint a representative to attend Governing Board meetings (the “County Representative”). County Representatives may participate in Governing Board discussions and nonbinding Governing Board votes.

**C. Executive Committee.**

At such time as there are more than five (5) Municipal Members, there shall be an Executive Committee composed of no less than five (5) Directors elected by the Governing Board from among the Directors appointed by the Municipal Members. The Executive Committee shall be selected by majority vote of all of the Directors of the Municipal Members. In addition to the delegation of powers set forth in Article V(A) (Powers of Governing Board), the powers of the Board of Directors shall be delegated to the Executive Committee in the following circumstances: (i) when a quorum of the full Governing Board is not present for a regularly scheduled meeting; and (ii) exigent circumstances require Governing Board action, and there is insufficient time to convene a regular meeting of the Governing Board.

The Executive Committee shall conduct its business so far as possible in the same manner as is provided by this Agreement by the Governing Board. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Committee shall keep records of its meetings in form and substance as may be directed by the Governing Board and in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§18-25, and other applicable law.

Any Director who is not a member of the Executive Committee may attend and participate in Executive Committee meetings, but may not vote. Attendance may be in-person or by telephone.

From time to time upon request and at each meeting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee shall make a full report of its actions and activities since the last meeting of the Governing Board.

If two (2) members of the Executive Committee object to the affirmative action taken by the Executive Committee, they may appeal such decision within forty-eight (48) hours of such action or vote by requesting a special meeting of the Governing Board in accordance with Article VI(C) (Special Meetings) which must occur as soon as possible but no later fourteen (14) days after the Executive Committee action if the original Executive Committee action was necessitated by exigent circumstances. At such special meeting, the Governing Board may overturn the action or vote of the Executive Committee by a two-thirds vote of the Directors. A vote by the Executive Committee to take no action cannot be appealed.

**D. Manner of Acting and Quorum.**

The Governing Board shall act by vote of a majority of the Directors of the Municipal Members present and voting at the time of the vote. Unless altered by the Governing Board in



accordance with this Agreement, each Municipal Member shall be entitled to select one (1) Director whose vote shall be equal in weight to the Director of any other Municipal Member, except as expressly set forth in the succeeding paragraphs. Directors may participate in meetings remotely in accordance with the regulations of the Office of the Attorney General governing remote participation, 940 C.M.R. 29.10. In accordance with 940 C.M.R. 29.10 and the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25, a simple majority of the Directors of the Municipal Members must be physically present to attain a quorum. County Representatives shall not count towards a quorum as they have limited participation rights. Directors abstaining from voting shall be counted for meeting quorum purposes, but their votes shall not count with respect to the matters they abstain from voting on. By way of example, if ten (10) Directors from the Municipal Members are present and four (4) abstain from voting, and the remaining Directors split their votes four (4) in favor, two (2) against, the motion would pass.

While a quorum is present, unless another provision is made by law, this Agreement or by the Cape Light Compact JPE's own rules, all business shall be determined by a majority vote of the Directors of the Municipal Members then present and voting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any vote involving a matter concerning issues which would or could bear in a direct and material fashion on the financial interests of the Municipal Members shall be taken by a weighted vote in which the vote of each Director shall be weighted in the same proportion as the population of the Municipal Member such Director represents bears to the whole population of the Municipal Members of the Cape Light Compact JPE, such population as determined, in the case of Barnstable County, by the most recent federal census, or decennial census, and, in the case of Dukes County, by the most recent data available from the Martha's Vineyard Commission. In case of a dispute as to whether a vote shall be taken on a weighted basis as set forth in this paragraph or on a one (1) town, one (1) vote basis as set forth in the preceding paragraph of this subsection, the determination shall be made by weighted vote as set forth herein. Exhibit B sets forth the population for each Municipal Member, and provides an example of a vote taken in accordance with weighted voting procedures.

**E. Rules and Minutes; Meeting Announcements.**

The Governing Board shall determine its own rules and order of business, unless otherwise provided by law or this Agreement. The Governing Board shall also provide for the keeping of minutes of its proceedings in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. All regular and Executive Committee meeting announcements shall be sent to all Directors and County Representatives.

**F. Voting.**

If requested by any Director and as may be required by law, a vote of the body shall be taken by a roll call and the vote of each Director shall be recorded in the minutes, provided, however, if any vote is unanimous only that fact need be recorded. Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, roll call votes are required for the following: (i) a vote to go into executive session; (ii) votes taken in executive session; and (iii) votes taken in open session when one or more Directors is participating remotely.

**G. Resignation and Removal.**

**1. Resignation.**

Any Director or County Representatives (or their alternates) may resign at any time upon written notice to the remaining Governing Board. A Director may resign from the Executive Committee and still keep his or her position as a Director. The resignation of any Director (or alternate) or resignation from the Executive Committee shall take effect upon receipt of notice thereof or at such later time as shall be specified in such notice, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

**2. Removal.**

Any Director (or alternate) may be removed at any time with or without cause by his or her appointing authority. The Governing Board may send a notice to an appointing authority requesting removal of a Director for cause as specified in such notice. For cause removal shall include, but not be limited to, disclosure of documents exempt from disclosure under the Massachusetts Public Records Law in violation of G.L. c. 268A, §23(c)(2), or disclosure of matters discussed during executive session prior to release of executive session minutes.

A Director from a Municipal Member who fails to attend at least half of the Directors' meetings annually shall be automatically removed, unless such Director has requested an exemption from this requirement due to special circumstances (i.e., prolonged illness, conflicting work/personal commitments). Annual attendance shall be calculated on a calendar year basis. The secretary (or other officer of as may be designated by the Governing) shall report on the annual attendance of Directors as requested by the Governing Board. In each vote implementing the removal of a Director, the Governing Board shall state an official removal date, which shall generally take place within ninety (90) to one hundred and eighty days (180) in order to give the Municipal Member who appointed such Director an opportunity to replace such Director. A Municipal Member whose Director is removed shall be given immediate notice of such removal. A Director who has been removed or a Municipal Member whose Director has been removed may petition the Governing Board for reinstatement and he or she shall be given notice and an opportunity to be heard before the Governing Board on such matter within ninety (90) days of such request.

**H. Vacancies.**

**1. Vacancies on the Governing Board.**

The remaining Directors may act despite a vacancy in the Governing Board. A vacancy in the Governing Board of a Director from a Municipal Member shall be promptly filled, but in no case more than sixty (60) days thereafter, by the appointing authority of the Municipal Member which originally selected such Director. Each Director chosen to fill a vacancy on the Governing Board shall hold office until his or her successor shall be appointed and qualified by his or her appointing authority. Insofar as there is no Director then in office representing a

Municipal Member, the alternate shall act in his or her stead. If a Municipal Member has not appointed an alternate, the Director position shall be considered vacant for that particular Municipal Member and it shall not be counted for quorum purposes under Article V(D) (Manner of Acting and Quorum) or for the purposes of the Open Meeting Law until the Municipal Member fills the vacancy and/or appoints an alternate.

**2. Vacancies on the Executive Committee.**

Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the position was originally filled.

**3. No Right to Compensation.**

No Director shall receive an additional salary or stipend for his or her service as a Governing Board member. Directors are not eligible for health insurance or other benefits provided to employees of the Cape Light Compact JPE.

**ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

**A. Place.**

Meetings of the Governing Board, including meetings of the Executive Committee, shall be held at such place within Barnstable County or Dukes County, or at such other place as may be named in the notice of such meeting.

**B. Regular Meetings.**

Regular meetings may be held at such times as the Governing Board may fix but no less frequently than quarterly.

**C. Special Meetings.**

Special meetings of the Governing Board may be called by the chairman or any other officer or Director at other times throughout the year.

**D. Notice.**

In addition to the personal notice to Directors and County Representatives set forth in Article V(E) (Rules and Minutes; Meeting Announcements), public notice of any regular meeting shall be made in compliance with the Open Meeting Law and other applicable law. Forty-eight (48) hours' notice to Directors and County Representatives by mail, electronic mail, telegraph, telephone or word of mouth shall be given for a special meeting unless shorter notice is adequate under the circumstances, provided, however, that public notice of such special meeting has been made in compliance with applicable law. A notice or waiver of notice need not specify the purpose of any special meeting. Personal notice of a meeting need not be given to any Director

or County Representative if a written waiver of notice, executed by him or her before or after the meeting, is filed with the records of the meeting, or to any Director who attends the meeting without protesting prior thereto or at its commencement the lack of notice to him or her.

**E. Vote of Interested Directors.**

A Director or County Representative who is a member, stockholder, trustee, director, officer or employee of any firm, corporation or association with which the Cape Light Compact JPE contemplates contracting or transacting business shall disclose his or her relationship or interest to Governing Board. No Director or County Representative so interested shall deliberate or vote on such contract or transaction. The affirmative vote of a majority of the disinterested Directors present and voting hereof shall be required before the Cape Light Compact JPE may enter into such contract or transaction.

In case the Cape Light Compact JPE enters into a contract or transacts business with any firm, corporation or association of which one or more of its Directors is a member, stockholder, trustee, director, officer, or employee, such contract or transaction shall not be invalidated or in any way affected by the fact that such Director or County Representative have or may have interests therein which are or might be adverse to the interests of the Cape Light Compact JPE. No Director or County Representative having disclosed such adverse interest shall be liable to the Cape Light Compact JPE or to any creditor of the Cape Light Compact JPE or to any other person for any loss incurred by it under or by reason of any such contract or transaction, nor shall any such Director or County Representative be accountable for any gains or profits to be realized thereon.

Nothing contained herein shall affect the compliance of any Director or County Representative or the Governing Board or the Cape Light Compact JPE with G.L. c. 268A, as set forth in Article VIII (G.L. c. 268A), below.

**ARTICLE VII: OPEN MEETING LAW; EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

The meetings of the Governing Board are subject to the Massachusetts law governing open meetings of governmental bodies and governmental boards and commissions, including the Open Meeting Law. The Governing Board is therefore required to maintain accurate records of its meetings, setting forth the date, time, place, Directors present or absent and action taken at each meeting, including executive sessions.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, the Governing Board may hold an executive session after an open meeting has been convened and a recorded roll call vote has been taken to hold an executive session. Executive sessions may be held only for the purposes specifically enumerated in the Open Meeting Law, including, but not limited to, to discuss energy-related trade secrets or confidential information, or litigation strategy.

Matters discussed in executive sessions of the Governing Board must be treated as confidential, and disclosure of such matters is a violation of G.L. c. 268A, §23(c)(2). A violation

of confidentiality may lead to disciplinary action as established by the Governing Board, including a request for removal of a Director in accordance with Article V(G)(2) (Removal).

#### **ARTICLE VIII: G.L. c. 268A**

Directors, County Representatives, officers and employees of the Cape Light Compact JPE are subject to the provisions of the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law, G.L. c. 268A, and shall act at all times in conformity therewith. Public employees who work for two (2) or more public entities may find that each agency has an interest in a particular matter. Any employee, officer, County Representative or Director may request free legal advice from the State Ethics Commission about how the Conflict of Interest Law applies to them in a particular situation. This process is explained at <http://www.mass.gov/ethics/commission-services/request-advice.html>. Directors may also request a formal conflict of interest opinion from town counsel pursuant to G.L. c. 268A, §22.

In accordance with G.L. c. 268A, §23(c)(2), Directors, County Representatives, officers and employees of the JPE are prohibited from improperly disclosing materials or data that are exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law, and were acquired by him or her in the course of his or her official duties, and may not use such information to further his or her personal interest.

#### **ARTICLE IX: OFFICERS; STAFF; SERVICE PROVIDERS**

##### **A. Election.**

At its first meeting of the calendar year, the Governing Board shall elect a chairman, vice chairman, treasurer, secretary and business officer and such other officers as the Governing Board shall determine. The term of office for those so elected shall be one (1) year and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. Other than the treasurer and business officer, all officers must be a Director and, upon selection of a successor Director by such officer's appointing Member, such officer shall immediately tender notice thereof to the Cape Light Compact JPE and the Governing Board shall select a replacement among the various Directors from the Municipal Members for the remaining term of such officer.

##### **B. Qualifications.**

Two (2) or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of chairman, secretary or treasurer.

##### **C. Vacancies.**

Any vacancy occurring among the officers, however caused, may be filled by the Directors from the Municipal Members for the unexpired portion of the term.

**D. Removal and Resignation of Officers.**

**1. Removal.**

Any officer of the Cape Light Compact JPE may be removed from his or her respective offices with or without cause by resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Governing Board.

**2. Resignation.**

Any officer may resign at any time by giving his or her resignation in writing to the chairman, treasurer, secretary, the Cape Light Compact JPE Administrator, or Director of the Cape Light Compact JPE. An officer may resign as officer without resigning from other positions in the Cape Light Compact JPE, including positions on the Executive Committee or as Director.

**E. Sponsors, Benefactors, Contributors, Advisors, Friends of the Cape Light Compact JPE.**

Persons or groups of persons designated by the Governing Board as sponsors, benefactors, contributors, advisors or friends of the Cape Light Compact JPE or such other title as the Governing Board deems appropriate shall, except as the Governing Board shall otherwise determine, serve in an honorary capacity. In such capacity they shall have no right to notice of or to vote at any meeting, shall not be considered for purposes of establishing a quorum and shall have no other rights or responsibilities.

**F. Chairman.**

The chairman shall preside at all meetings at which he or she is present. Unless otherwise directed by the Governing Board, all other officers shall be subject to the authority and supervision of the chairman. The chairman also shall have such other powers and duties as customarily belong to the office of chairman or as may be designated from time to time by the Governing Board.

**G. Vice Chairman.**

The vice chairman shall assist the chairman and preside at meetings at which the chairman is not present. The vice chairman also shall have such other powers and duties as customarily belong to the office of vice chairman or as may be designated from time to time by the Governing Board.

**H. Treasurer and Business Officer.**

The Governing Board shall appoint a treasurer who may be a treasurer of one of the Municipal Members. No Director or other employee of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall be

eligible to serve concurrently as treasurer. The treasurer, subject to the direction and approval of the Governing Board, shall be authorized to receive, invest and disburse all funds of the Cape Light Compact JPE without further appropriation. The treasurer shall give bond for the faithful performance of his or her duties in a form and amount as fixed by the Governing Board. The treasurer may make appropriate investments of the funds of the Cape Light Compact JPE consistent with G.L. c. 44, § 55B.

The Governing Board shall appoint a business officer who may be a city auditor, town accountant or officer with similar duties, of one of the Municipal Members. The business officer shall have the duties and responsibilities of an auditor or accountant pursuant to G.L. c. 41, §§52 and 56 and shall not be eligible to hold the office of treasurer.

If the Cape Light Compact JPE is using a service provider pursuant to Article IX(M) (Service Providers) to handle Cape Light Compact JPE funds, the Governing Board shall consider using one or more employees of such service provider to serve as treasurer or business officer.

**I. Secretary.**

The secretary shall arrange for the recording, consistent with applicable law, of all proceedings of the Governing Board, Executive Committee and any other such committee in a book or books to be kept therefor, and have such powers and duties as customarily belong to the office of clerk or secretary or as may be designated from time to time by the chairman or the Governing Board.

**J. Other Officers.**

The Governing Board shall retain legal counsel for the Cape Light Compact JPE. The Cape Light Compact JPE's legal counsel may jointly represent the Cape Light Compact JPE's Municipal Member or other parties in accordance with this Article XIX(I) (Shared Legal Representation) of this Agreement.

The Cape Light Compact JPE shall designate a Chief Procurement Officer, whose role, in accordance with G.L. c. 30B (or other applicable procurement laws) and other applicable provisions of law, shall be to select proposals for and facilitate the award of contracts on behalf of the Cape Light Compact JPE, with input from Directors, the Cape Light Compact JPE staff, counsel and others, as such Chief Procurement Officer sees fit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Governing Board may determine that the Cape Light Compact JPE, as long as consistent with applicable law, will select proposals and award contracts in another manner.

Other officers shall have such powers as may be designated from time to time by the Governing Board.

**K. The Cape Light Compact JPE Administrator.**

The Governing Board shall appoint a JPE Administrator who shall be an employee of the Cape Light Compact JPE. In general, the Cape Light Compact JPE Administrator shall serve as the chief administrative and operating officer and supervise, direct and be responsible for the efficient administration of the business of the Cape Light Compact JPE.

More specifically, the Cape Light Compact JPE Administrator shall be responsible for:

- (i) Implementing the goals and carrying out the policies of the Cape Light Compact JPE Governing Board;
- (ii) Maintaining the complete and full records, reports and filings associated with the financial and administrative activity of the Cape Light Compact JPE;
- (iii) Planning and directing all administrative and operational functions of the Cape Light Compact JPE consistent with budgets approved by the Governing Board;
- (iv) Managing the hiring process, supervising and directing the work of all staff consistent with budgets and strategic goals approved by the Governing Board;
- (v) Consulting and advising the Governing Board as to the business, operational and strategic concerns of the Cape Light Compact JPE including fiscal affairs, legal and operational issues, and major program initiatives;
- (vi) Regularly attending all Governing Board meetings and answering all questions addressed to him or her;
- (vii) Managing the Cape Light Compact JPE's legal affairs, including directing the Cape Light Compact JPE's participation in regulatory and judicial proceedings, consistent with relevant budgets approved by the Governing Board;
- (viii) Managing the Cape Light Compact JPE's energy efficiency program in accordance with all applicable laws and the rules and regulations of the DPU, or any successor entity;
- (ix) Negotiating and executing contracts for power supply procurement, renewable energy certificates, energy efficiency contracts, contracts for professional services and legal services in order to achieve the strategic goals and business purposes of the governing board; and
- (x) Perform such other duties as may be directed by the Governing Board from time to time, or as may be necessary or advisable to fulfill the Cape Light Compact JPE's objectives.



The Governing Board may elect to expand, limit or otherwise amend the foregoing responsibilities by replacing this Article IX(K) with a list of responsibilities set forth in Exhibit C.

**L. Cape Light Compact JPE Staff.**

The Cape Light Compact JPE shall be a public employer. The Governing Board may employ personnel to carry out the purposes of this Agreement and establish the duties, compensation and other terms and conditions of employment of personnel. The Governing Board shall take all necessary steps to provide for continuation of membership in a valid and existing public employee retirement system.

**M. Service Providers.**

The Governing Board may appoint or engage one or more service providers to serve as the Cape Light Compact JPE's administrative, fiscal or operational agent in accordance with the provisions of a written agreement between the Cape Light Compact JPE and the service provider. A Municipal Member may contract with the Cape Light Compact JPE to be a service provider. The service provider agreement shall set forth the terms and conditions by which the service provider shall perform or cause to be performed the requested services. This subsection (M) shall not in any way be construed to limit the discretion of the Cape Light Compact JPE to hire its own employees to perform such functions.

**ARTICLE X: BUDGET; FINANCING; BORROWING; AND RELATED MATTERS**

**A. Budget; Segregation of Funds; Expenditures.**

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Cape Light Compact JPE staff shall work with the Governing Board to prepare a proposed operating budget. The Cape Light Compact JPE shall adopt an operating budget for each fiscal year and direct the expenditure of funds in accordance with applicable law. The operating budget and any amendments thereto shall be approved by a weighted vote of the Governing Board in accordance with Article V(D) (Manner of Acting and Quorum).

All funds of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall be held in separate accounts in the name of the Cape Light Compact JPE and not commingled with funds of any other person or entity. All funds of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall be strictly and separately accounted for, and regular reports shall be rendered of all receipts and disbursements. The Governing Board shall contract with a certified public accountant to make an annual audit of the accounts and records of the Cape Light Compact JPE. All expenditures shall be made in accordance with the approved budget and in accordance with any applicable procedures or controls as may be authorized by the Governing Board.

**B. Financing.**

The Cape Light Compact JPE shall finance the joint services, activities or undertakings within the region in the manner set forth in this Article X. Upon the transfer of operations as set forth in Article XVIII(C) (Transfer of Operations), the Cape Light Compact JPE may collect a kilowatt hour charge or equivalent of up to a mil per kilowatt hour, from consumers participating in the municipal aggregation power supply program. The amount collected may be up to 1 mil (\$.001), or such lower amount as the Cape Light Compact JPE Administrator may determine, for every kilowatt hour sold to consumers for the duration of service under a competitive electric supply agreement (this charge is referred to as an “Operational Adder”). The Cape Light Compact JPE will primarily use the Operational Adder funds to support the municipal aggregation power supply program budget and other costs associated with implementing the powers and purposes of the Cape Light Compact JPE. The level of the Operational Adder shall be determined during the annual operating budget process based upon the projected expenses of the Cape Light Compact JPE. All uses of the Operational Adder shall follow the Cape Light Compact JPE budget appropriation process.

Upon the transfer of operations as set forth in Article XVIII(C) (Transfer of Operations), funding for the Cape Light Compact JPE’s energy efficiency activities shall come in part from the mandatory system benefits charges imposed on consumers in accordance with G.L. c. 25, §19(a), which funds energy efficiency programs administered by municipal aggregators with energy plans certified by the DPU under G.L. c. 164, §134(b). In addition, in accordance with G.L. c. 25, §19(a), the Cape Light Compact JPE’s energy efficiency activities may also be funded by revenues from the forward capacity market administered by ISO New England Inc., revenues from cap and trade pollution control programs (e.g., Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative), other funding sources and an energy efficiency surcharge, as approved by the DPU or a successor thereto. In addition, the Cape Light Compact JPE shall finance the joint services, activities or undertakings within the region with grants from the commonwealth, the federal government and other public and private grantors.

**C. Borrowing.**

The Cape Light Compact JPE is authorized to incur borrowing pursuant to the Joint Powers Statute. There are no limitations on the purposes, terms and amounts of debt the Cape Light Compact JPE may incur to perform such services, activities or undertakings, except as may established by law.

**ARTICLE XI: COOPERATION; AUTHORITY DOCUMENTS**

The Members agree to act in good faith and use their best efforts to effectuate the intent and purpose of this Agreement. All parties to this Agreement shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible.

The Members acknowledge and agree that the authority of the Cape Light Compact JPE will be evidenced and effectuated through this Agreement and through Governing Board votes,

resolutions and various documents duly adopted by the Governing Board. The Members agree to abide by and comply with the terms and conditions of all such votes, resolutions and documents that may be adopted by the Governing Board, subject to the Members' right to withdraw from the Cape Light Compact JPE as described in Article XVI (Term; Termination; Withdrawal).

## **ARTICLE XII: ELECTRICITY AND OTHER AGREEMENTS**

Pursuant to this Agreement, the Members and private consumers may enter into contracts for the distribution, transmission and/or supply of electricity, for the purchase of energy and RECs, and for project financing in support thereof, provided, however, that any contract for the purchase of electric power supplies, distribution, transmission or metering, billing and information services or related to any of the foregoing, shall not impose direct or individual financial obligations on any Members until approved by such individual Member, as the case may be, and further, that any contract shall indemnify and hold harmless the Cape Light Compact JPE and its Members from any financial liability or provide commercially reasonable indemnification with respect to the provision of such products or services.

## **ARTICLE XIII: OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS**

Nothing in this Agreement or in any negotiated contract for the supply of electricity shall be construed to supersede, alter or otherwise impair any obligation imposed on any Member by otherwise applicable law.

## **ARTICLE XIV: INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS; LIABILITY OF DIRECTOR AND OFFICERS; INSURANCE; INDEMNIFICATION OF MEMBERS**

### **A. Indemnification of Directors.**

The Cape Light Compact JPE shall, to the extent legally permissible, indemnify the Directors, County Representatives, officers and Members. All contracts negotiated or undertaken by the Cape Light Compact JPE shall also include, to the maximum extent feasible, indemnification of the Directors, County Representatives, officers and the Members.

### **B. Liability of Directors, Officers, and Employees.**

The Directors, County Representative, officers, and employees of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall use ordinary care and reasonable diligence in the exercise of their powers and in the performance of their duties pursuant to this Agreement. No current or former Director, officer, or employee will be responsible for any act or omission by another Director, County Representative, officer, or employee.

### **C. Insurance.**

The Cape Light Compact JPE shall acquire such insurance coverage as the Governing Board deems necessary to protect the interests of the Cape Light Compact JPE, the Members,

the Directors and officers, employees and the public. If possible, such insurance coverage shall name the Members as additional insureds. If the Cape Light Compact JPE has employees, it shall obtain worker's compensation insurance.

**D. Indemnification of Members.**

The Cape Light Compact JPE shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Members from any and all claims, losses, damages, costs, injuries and liabilities of every kind to the extent arising directly or indirectly from the conduct, activities, operations, acts, and omissions of the Cape Light Compact JPE under this Agreement, and not arising directly or indirectly from the negligent or intentional actions of any Member. In addition, the Cape Light Compact JPE shall not be responsible for indemnifying any Member for any claims, losses, damages, costs or injuries arising from any duties that such Member has agreed to assume in a contract with the Cape Light Compact JPE.

**ARTICLE XV: AMENDMENT; REVISION OF EXHIBITS**

Except as set forth below in the following paragraph, this Agreement may be altered, amended, or repealed, in whole or in part, by the affirmative vote of Directors of Municipal Members whose population is at least equal to 50% of the combined population of all of the Municipal Members of the Cape Light Compact JPE. Notice of proposed amendments shall be sent to Members at least thirty (30) days before any Governing Board vote on such amendments in accordance with Article XIX(D) (Notices).

Certain amendments to this Agreement and certain actions of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall require the affirmative approval of the Municipal Members whose population is at least equal to 50% of the combined population of all of the Municipal Members of the Cape Light Compact JPE: (i) Article I(B) (Eligibility for Membership; Addition of Members); and (ii) Article I(D) (Liability of Members).

In addition, termination of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall require the approval of all Municipal Members.

The Municipal Members agree that Exhibits A (List of Members), B (Weighted Voting) and C (JPE Administrator Responsibilities) to this Agreement set forth certain administrative matters that may be revised by the Cape Light Compact JPE Administrator in accordance with Governing Board authorization without such revision constituting an amendment to this Agreement. The Cape Light Compact JPE shall provide written notice to the Members of the revision to such exhibits.

**ARTICLE XVI: TERM; TERMINATION; WITHDRAWAL**

This Agreement shall continue in effect for a term not to exceed twenty-five (25) years. At the conclusion of the term, taking into account any changed circumstances, the Municipal Members shall in good faith negotiate a replacement agreement.

Any Member may voluntarily withdraw from the Cape Light Compact JPE at the end of each calendar quarter upon at least ninety (90) days prior written notice. Withdrawal of such Member shall not affect any obligations entered into prior to the date of withdrawal which are binding by their terms on such member, including, without limitation, contracts directly entered into by such Member and financial contributions to the Cape Light Compact JPE made or agreed to be made by such member.

This Agreement may be terminated by collective agreement of all the Municipal Members; provided, however, the foregoing shall not be construed as limiting the rights of a Municipal Member to withdraw its membership in the Cape Light Compact JPE, and thus terminate this Agreement only with respect to such withdrawing Municipal Member.

Upon termination of this Agreement, any surplus money or assets in possession of the Cape Light Compact JPE for use under this Agreement, after payment of all liabilities, costs, expenses, and charges incurred under this Agreement shall be returned to the then-existing Members in proportion to the contributions made by each, if applicable; if no contributions were made, surplus assets shall be distributed based on the relative populations of each Municipal Member. Payment of liabilities and disbursement of surplus money or assets shall also be in accordance with any rules, regulations and policies adopted by governmental authorities having jurisdiction over the Cape Light Compact JPE.

#### **ARTICLE XVII: CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY**

This Agreement shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this Agreement shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this Agreement is declared to be contrary to the constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or of the United States, or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Agreement and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this Agreement shall be held contrary to the constitution or the Massachusetts General Laws, the Cape Light Compact JPE shall remain in full force and effect as to all severable matters.

#### **ARTICLE XVIII: THE CAPE LIGHT COMPACT JPE AS SUCCESSOR TO THE COMPACT; TRANSFER OF COMPACT'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS**

##### **A. The Cape Light Compact JPE's Status as Successor Entity to the Compact.**

It is the intent of the Members that the Cape Light Compact JPE eventually serve as the successor entity to the Compact.

In order to provide for an orderly transition, the Cape Light Compact JPE and the Compact will coordinate transfer and succession plans in accordance with this Article XVIII.

Upon transfer of the Compact's operations as set forth in Article XVIII(D) (Transfer of Operations) below, and in accordance with applicable transfer and succession plans, the Cape Light Compact JPE shall assume all benefits, obligations and liabilities of the Compact.

**B. Transfer of Administrative and Financial Functions.**

Upon the Effective Date, the Cape Light Compact JPE will serve as the administrative and fiscal arm of the Compact. As soon as practicable, Compact staff will become employees of the Cape Light Compact JPE. At such time, the Cape Light Compact JPE shall assume responsibility for any and all loss, injury, damage, liability, claim, demand, tort or worker's compensation incidents that occur on or after the date personnel are transferred to the Cape Light Compact JPE. The Cape Light Compact JPE will also perform certain financial services for the Compact as set forth in a written agreement between the Compact and the Cape Light Compact JPE. The Cape Light Compact JPE may elect to delegate performance of such functions to service providers as set forth in Article IX(M) (Service Providers).

**C. Transfer of Operations.**

Unless such other date is established by the Governing Board, when the majority of the municipal members of the Compact join the Cape Light Compact JPE, the Compact and the Cape Light Compact JPE will develop an asset transfer and succession plan and, in consultation with DPU (and other governmental authorities if necessary or convenient), will establish an operational transfer date (no later than January 31, 2018, unless otherwise directed by DPU). Once such date is established, the Cape Light Compact JPE will notify the members of the Compact of the deadline for joining the Cape Light Compact JPE in order to participate in its aggregation plan. On or before the operational transfer date, the Cape Light Compact JPE will execute all documents and perform all acts necessary to transfer all programs, operational functions, tangible and intangible assets (including intellectual property), contracts and records of the Compact to the Cape Light Compact JPE so that the Cape Light Compact JPE is the legal successor to the Compact.

**D. Meetings and Board Membership During Transition Period.**

During the transition period, meetings of the Cape Light Compact JPE will occur immediately before or after scheduled meetings of the Compact. In order to provide for an orderly transition or for any other reason that a Municipal Member deems appropriate, a Municipal Member may appoint the same person to serve on the Cape Light Compact JPE's and Compact's Governing Boards.

**ARTICLE XIX: MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. Principal Office.**

The principal office of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall be located at such places as the Governing Board may establish from time to time.

**B. The Cape Light Compact JPE Records.**

The original, or attested copies, of this Agreement and records of all meetings of the Governing Board shall be kept in Massachusetts at the principal office of the Cape Light Compact JPE. Said copies and records need not all be kept in the same office. They shall be available at all reasonable times for the inspection of any Municipal Member or Director for any proper purpose and as required by law. The records of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall be subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Act, G.L. c. 66, and shall be deemed public records, unless such records fall within the exemptions set forth in G.L. c. 4, §7, including exemptions for development of inter-agency policy and trade secrets or commercial or financial information.

**C. Fiscal Year.**

The fiscal year of the Cape Light Compact JPE shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st.

**D. Notices.**

All notices, waivers, demands, requests, consents or other communications required or permitted to be given or made under this Agreement shall be in writing and if addressed to the Cape Light Compact JPE shall be sent to:

JPE Administrator  
Cape Light Compact JPE  
3195 Main Street  
Open Cape Building  
Barnstable, MA 02630

The Cape Light Compact JPE may change its address by sending a notice of change of address to all Members.

Members shall be required to send the Cape Light Compact JPE a notice each January setting forth the name, address and other contact information for its Director and alternate director, and the contact name and address for all notices to be sent to Members under this Agreement. If no address has been provided for notices, the Cape Light Compact JPE may use the Town Clerk's address for a Member as provided on its website.

A Member may change its address by sending a notice of change of address to the Cape Light Compact JPE.

Except for any notice required by law to be given in another manner, all notices, waivers, demands, requests, consents, or other communications required or permitted by this Agreement to be effective shall be in writing, properly addressed, and shall be given by: (i) personal delivery; (ii) established overnight commercial courier delivery service with charges prepaid or duly charged by the sender; or (iii) registered or certified mail, return receipt

requested, first class, postage prepaid. Notices given hereunder shall be deemed sufficiently given on: (i) the date of personal delivery if so delivered; (ii) the day after sending if sent by established overnight commercial courier delivery service; or (iii) the fifth day after sending if sent by registered or certified mail. The Cape Light Compact JPE and the Members may additionally provide notice by electronic mail, facsimile, or telephone communication, but this shall not relieve the notifying party of the obligation to provide notice as specified above.

**E. Reports.**

The Cape Light Compact JPE shall submit an annual report to each Member which shall contain a detailed audited financial statement and a statement in accordance with the Joint Powers Statute.

The Cape Light Compact JPE shall prepare a written annual report, in the format required by the DPU regarding the expenditure of energy efficiency funds for the previous calendar year. Such reports shall be filed with the DPU no later than August 1, unless filing or reporting requirements established by the DPU necessitate a different date, and posted to the Cape Light Compact JPE's web site within thirty (30) days of submission to the DPU. In addition, the Cape Light Compact JPE shall periodically prepare written overviews of the Cape Light Compact JPE's program activities for each Municipal Member for inclusion in its individual town annual reports.

Upon the transfer of operations as set forth in Article XVIII(C) (Transfer of Operations), for so long as is required by the DPU, the Cape Light Compact JPE shall submit an annual report to the DPU on December 1st of each year regarding its municipal aggregation power supply program. The annual report will, at a minimum, provide: (1) a list of the program's competitive suppliers over the past year; (2) the term of each power supply contract; (3) the aggregation's monthly enrollment statistics by customer class; (4) a brief description of any renewable energy supply options; and (5) a discussion and documentation regarding the implementation of the municipal aggregation's alternative information disclosure strategy. As approved by the DPU, the Cape Light Compact JPE may submit this report on a fiscal year basis.

**F. Dispute Resolution.**

The Members and the Cape Light Compact JPE shall make reasonable efforts to settle all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement. Before exercising any remedy provided by law, a Member and the Cape Light Compact JPE shall engage in nonbinding mediation in the manner agreed upon by the participating Member and the Cape Light Compact JPE. The Cape Light Compact JPE and Members agree that each Municipal Member may specifically enforce this Article XIX(F). In the event that nonbinding mediation is not initiated or does not result in the settlement of a dispute within sixty (60) days after the demand for mediation or is made, any Municipal Member and the Cape Light Compact JPE may pursue any remedies provided by law.



**G. Multiple Originals.**

This Agreement shall be executed in accordance with the requirements of the Joint Powers Statute. Amendments to this Agreement requiring approval of Directors shall be executed by the Directors approving such amendments. Amendments to this Agreement requiring approval of the Municipal Members shall be executed in the manner set forth in the Joint Powers Statute.

This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument. In addition, this Agreement may contain more than one counterpart of the signature page and all of such signature pages shall be read as though one and shall have the same force and effect as though all of the parties had executed a single signature page.

**H. No Partnership or Joint Venture in Contracts with Third Parties; Limitation of Responsibility.**

In carrying out its purposes as described herein, and in entry into any third party contract for the purchase of electric power supplies, distribution, transmission or metering, billing and information services or related to any of the foregoing, neither the Cape Light Compact JPE nor any of its Members shall be a partner or joint venturer with any third party. The relationship between the Cape Light Compact JPE (and/or its Members) on the one hand and the other party(ies) to such contract on the other hand shall be that of buyer and seller or agent for the buyer and seller, as the case may be. Nothing therein contained shall be deemed to constitute the Cape Light Compact JPE (and/or its Members) as a partner, agent or legal representative of any third party or to create a joint venture, agency or any relationship between the Cape Light Compact JPE (and/or its Members) and any third party other than that of buyer and seller or agent for the buyer and seller, as the case may be. The Cape Light Compact JPE and its Members have no responsibility to supply, distribute, transmit, meter, bill or otherwise provide electricity to any consumer and none is implied hereby or thereby. Nothing in this Article XIX(H) shall be construed as prohibiting the Cape Light Compact JPE from entering into a partnership or joint venture relationship with any organization in which it has a membership interest or affiliation.

**I. Shared Legal Representation Involving Members or Other Public Entities; Official Duties of Cape Light Compact JPE Counsel.**

The Cape Light Compact JPE may from time to time to retain counsel who may also represent its Members or other public entities in matters in which the Cape Light Compact JPE has a direct or substantial interest without violating G.L. c. 268A, subject to the consent and approval of all parties requesting legal representation (which may be one or Members, or one or more non-Member parties). Such dual or common representation allows the Cape Light Compact JPE to pool resources for a common purpose, develop mutual interests, and preserve public funds. The official duties of the Cape Light Compact JPE counsel include, but are not limited to, representing Members or other public entities in: (i) administrative and judicial

proceedings in which the Cape Light Compact JPE is also a party; (ii) contract negotiations or project development matters in which the Cape Light Compact JPE or its Members have an interest, and (iii) other matters in which the Cape Light Compact JPE has a direct or substantial interest, provided that in each instance, such dual or common representation would not cause a violation of rules governing attorney conduct. The Cape Light Compact JPE counsel shall discharge such duties only when requested in writing by the Cape Light Compact JPE's Governing Board. Prior to making such a request, the Cape Light Compact JPE's Governing Board shall determine whether the interests of the Cape Light Compact JPE would be advanced by such dual or common representation and shall evaluate if actual or potential conflicts of interest exist. If any conflicts are identified, they shall be described in the written request. Counsel shall then make its own determination whether such dual or common representation would not cause a violation of rules governing attorney conduct. Representation of the Compact and the Cape Light Compact JPE shall not be considered dual representation as the two entities shall function as two component parts of one legal entity for a transition period, and then the Cape Light Compact JPE shall serve as the successor entity to the Compact.

Should the provision in G.L. c. 268A limiting dual or common representation be amended or replaced after the Effective Date, the Governing Board may elect to follow any alternative procedures with respect to dual or common legal representation as provided by such statute.

[EXECUTION PAGES TO FOLLOW]

#### LIST OF EXHIBITS

- Exhibit A – List of Members
- Exhibit B – Weighted Voting
- Exhibit C – JPE Administrator Responsibilities

**EXHIBIT A**

**List of Members**

## EXHIBIT B

### Weighted Voting

<b>Name of Town</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>Aquinnah</b>	<b>311</b>
<b>Barnstable</b>	<b>45,193</b>
<b>Bourne</b>	<b>19,754</b>
<b>Brewster</b>	<b>9,820</b>
<b>Chatham</b>	<b>6,125</b>
<b>Chilmark</b>	<b>866</b>
<b>Dennis</b>	<b>14,207</b>
<b>Eastham</b>	<b>4,956</b>
<b>Edgartown</b>	<b>4,067</b>
<b>Falmouth</b>	<b>31,531</b>
<b>Harwich</b>	<b>12,243</b>
<b>Mashpee</b>	<b>14,006</b>
<b>Oak Bluffs</b>	<b>4,527</b>
<b>Orleans</b>	<b>5,890</b>
<b>Provincetown</b>	<b>2,942</b>
<b>Sandwich</b>	<b>20,675</b>
<b>Tisbury</b>	<b>3,949</b>
<b>Truro</b>	<b>2,003</b>
<b>Wellfleet</b>	<b>2,750</b>
<b>West Tisbury</b>	<b>2,740</b>
<b>Yarmouth</b>	<b>23,793</b>

For an example of weighted voting, if the Municipal Members consisted of the Towns of Barnstable, Bourne and Brewster, the total population of the three Municipal Members would be 74,767. For weighted voting purposes, Barnstable's vote would be weighted 60.45%, Bourne's vote would be weighted 26.42%, and Brewster's would be weighted 13.13%.

**EXHIBIT C**

**JPE Administrator Responsibilities**

## **ATTACHMENT D**

### **GENERAL SUMMARY OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE IGA AND THE JPA**

JPA provisions that specifically address the new authorities set forth in the Joint Powers Statute:

- A description of the region in which the powers and duties shall be exercised (Barnstable and Dukes County). Article I(C)
- Liability of members (members not liable for the acts or omissions of other members or the JPE). Article I(D)
- Additional powers (to sue and be sued, make and execute contracts, make, amend and repeal policies and procedures, receive and expend funds, apply for and receive grants, submit annual reports, borrow money, contract for supplies and services, lease land and buildings, act as a public employer). Article III
- No salaries or stipends provided to directors. Article V(H)(3)
- Treasurer and Business Officer requirements. Article IX(H)
- Public employer status. Article III
- Annual reports with detailed audited financial statements. Article III(f)

Certain IGA provisions that were modified under the JPA:

- Barnstable County and Dukes County have limited membership and voting roles. Article V(B)
- The Directors on the Governing Board are subject to any limitations or direction established by their appointing authorities. Article V(A)
- The quorum requirements are clarified. Article V(D)
- Certain clarifications to Executive Committee powers, voting and membership were made. Article V(C)
- Clarifications were made to the Conflicts of Interest provision. Article VIII
- Certain amendments to the JPA will require approval by the municipal members and notice of all proposed amendments to the JPA will be provided to all members. Article XV
- A termination provision addresses: (i) distribution of surplus money or assets after a collective agreement of all of the municipal members to terminate, proportionate to such members' contributions; and (ii) withdrawal of an individual municipal member from the JPA solely with respect to that member. Article XVI

Finally, a few new provisions were added to the JPA to provide further clarity on the organizational structure and operations of the Cape Light Compact JPE:

- An attendance policy was established. Article V(G)(2)
- A provision was added to address treatment of Cape Light Compact JPE funds and contracting with a certified public accountant for an annual audit of the accounts and records of the Cape Light Compact JPE. Article X(A)
- The entity will indemnify its members regarding conduct, activities, operations, actions and omissions of the entity under the JPA, subject to certain exceptions. Article XIV(D)
- A limitation on liability provision was added. Article XIV(B)
- An insurance provision was added. Article XIV(C)
- A provision was added to incorporate reference to the Compact's main funding mechanisms set forth in its Aggregation Plan and the requirement to file an annual report with the Department. Article X(B)
- A dispute resolution provision was added. Article XIX(F)
- A contracting for service providers provision was added. Article IX(M)
- A transfer of operations (Compact to Cape Light Compact JPE) provision was added. Article XVIII(C)

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

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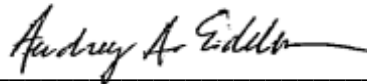
Petition of the Towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, )  
Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, )  
Edgartown, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, )  
Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, ) D.P.U. 17-\_\_\_\_  
Tisbury, Truro, West Tisbury, Wellfleet, and )  
Yarmouth, acting together as the Cape Light )  
Compact for an Advisory Ruling Regarding )  
G.L. c. 164, §134(a) )  

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**NOTICE OF APPEARANCE**

The undersigned attorneys hereby appear for and on behalf of the Cape Light Compact in the above-captioned case.

Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2017.



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