

Republic of the Philippines  
**ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City



**IN THE MATTER OF THE  
APPLICATION FOR  
APPROVAL OF THE  
ANCILLARY SERVICES  
PROCUREMENT  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE NATIONAL GRID  
CORPORATION OF THE  
PHILIPPINES AND SN  
ABOITIZ POWER-BENQUET,  
INC. (FOR AMBUKLAO),  
WITH PRAYER FOR THE  
ISSUANCE OF PROVISIONAL  
AUTHORITY**

**ERC CASE NO. 2019-014 RC**

**NATIONAL GRID  
CORPORATION OF THE  
PHILIPPINES (NGCP) AND  
SN ABOITIZ POWER-  
BENQUET, INC. (SNAP-BI),  
Applicants.**

Promulgated:  
MAR 27 2019

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on 22 February 2019, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) and SN Aboitiz Power-Benguet, Inc. (SNAP-BI) filed an *Application* dated 11 February 2019, seeking the Commission's approval of the Ancillary Services Procurement Agreement (ASPA) between the NGCP and SNAP-BI, with prayer for provisional authority.

The pertinent portions of the said *Application* are hereunder quoted as follows:

**NATURE OF THE CASE**

1. This Application is for the approval of the Ancillary Services Procurement Agreement ("ASPA") between the NGCP and SNAP-BI dated 14 January 2019, pursuant to the Decision dated 3 October 2007 in ERC Case No. 2006-049RC entitled: "In the Matter of the Application for the Approval of Ancillary Services

– Cost Recovery Mechanism (AS-CRM) of the Ancillary Services Procurement Plan, with Prayer for Provisional Authority.”

### **THE PARTIES**

2. Applicant NGCP is a corporation created and existing under the laws of the Philippines, with office address at NGCP Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. It holds a franchise under Republic Act No. 9511<sup>1</sup> to engage in the business of conveying or transmitting electricity through high-voltage back-bone systems of interconnected transmission lines, substations and related facilities, and for other purposes. The franchise also includes the conduct of activities necessary to support the safe and reliable operation of the transmission system.
3. Applicant SNAP-BI is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of the Philippines with principal place of business at Binga Hydroelectric Power Plant, Brgy. Tinongdan, Itogon, Benguet. It may be served with orders, notices, and other legal processes through its undersigned counsel. It is the owner and operator of the Ambuklao Hydro-Electric Power Plant (“Generation Facility”) located at Bokod, Benguet, which was certified and accredited by NGCP to be capable of providing Ancillary Services (“AS”) in the forms Regulating Reserve (“RR”), Contingency Reserve (“CR”), Dispatchable Reserve (“DR”) Black Start Service (“BSS”) and Reactive Power Support (“RPS”).

### **ANTECEDENT FACTS**

4. Republic Act No. 9136 (“EPIRA”) provides that it is the responsibility of NGCP to ensure and maintain the reliability, adequacy, security, stability and integrity of the nationwide electrical grid in accordance with the performance standards for its operations and maintenance, as set forth in the Philippine Grid Code (“PGC”)<sup>2</sup>, adopted and promulgated by the Honorable Commission, and to adequately serve generation companies, distribution utilities and suppliers requiring transmission service and/or ancillary services through the transmission system.<sup>3</sup>
5. Similarly, the PGC provides that NGCP is responsible for determining, acquiring, and dispatching the capacity needed to supply the required Grid AS and for developing and proposing Wheeling Charges and AS tariffs to the ERC.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *An Act Granting the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines a Franchise To Engage in the Business of Conveying or Transmitting Electricity Through High Voltage Back-Bone System of Interconnected Transmission Lines, Substations and Related Facilities, and for other Purposes;*

<sup>2</sup> Section 9 (c);

<sup>3</sup> Section 9 (d);

<sup>4</sup> Section 6.3.1.2;

6. AS as defined in Section 4(b) of the EPIRA “refer to those services that are necessary to support the transmission of capacity and energy from resources to loads while maintaining reliable operation of the transmission system in accordance with good utility practice and the Grid Code to be adopted in accordance with this Act.” These services are essential in ensuring reliability in the operation of the transmission system and consequently, in the reliability of the electricity supply in the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids.
7. In order to implement and regulate the procurement of AS, the Honorable Commission approved the Ancillary Services Procurement Plan (“ASPP”) through its Order dated 9 March 2006 in ERC Case No. 2002-253 and the Ancillary Services-Cost Recovery Mechanism (“AS-CRM”) through its Decision dated 3 October 2007 in ERC Case No. 2006-049RC.
8. Pursuant to its mandate, NGCP on different dates published in newspapers of general circulation a Notice of Invitation for Prospective Ancillary Services Providers, inviting all grid-connected merchant plants and independent power producers to participate in the provision of ancillary services.
9. It may be recalled that on 08 August 2016, the Applicants entered into an ASPA (2016 ASPA) for a period of 5 years for the procurement of RR, CR, DR and BSC. On 24 August 2016, the Applicants filed an application docketed as ERC Case No. 2016-165RC before the Honorable Commission for the approval of the 2016 ASPA, which was provisionally approved through an Order dated 20 February 2018.
10. To further support NGCP in maintaining power quality and the reliability of the Luzon Grid, SNAP-BI offered to provide RPS. Thus, on 14 January 2019, the Applicants entered into a new ASPA for RPS on a non-firm contracted capacity basis.

A copy of the Ancillary Services Procurement Agreement between NGCP and SNAP-BI dated 14 January 2019 is attached hereto as Annex “A”.

11. During the period of negotiation, NGCP has certified that the units of the Generation Facility to have met and complied with the Standard Ancillary Services Technical Requirements of the ASPP as capable of providing RPS. A copy of NGCP Accreditation Certificate No. 2018-LO17 dated 1 September 2018 is attached hereto as Annex “B”.

**NON-FIRM CONTRACTED CAPACITY  
RATE AND IMPACT SIMULATION**

12. Under Clause 3 of the ASPA, SNAP-BI shall provide NGCP with the following AS as specified in Schedule 1 of the ASPA, as follows:

Non-Firm Contracted Capacity

*Reactive Power Support (RPS)*

*Available capacity of Reactive Power outside the range of 85% lagging and 90% leading power factor, as provided in Schedule 6.*

*Note: This is in addition to the other Ancillary Service types provided under the Schedule 1 of ASPA entered into by SNAP-B and NGCP on 8 August 2016 with ERC Case No. 2016-165 RC.*

13. The Applicable Rates for the incidental kVARh covered by the ASPA as provided in Schedule 3 are as follows:

***Real Time Incidental kVARh Utilization while Providing Contingency or Dispatchable Reserves.***  
*This shall be paid based on the total recorded kVARh delivered/absorbed beyond 0.85 power factor lagging or 0.9 power factor leading from the time when the dispatch of RPS was instructed. The compensable kVARh shall be paid at:*

*Incidental kVAR Rate: PhP 4.00/ kVARh*

*Compensable kVARh = Actual kVARh – Base kVARh*

*Where:*

*Actual kVARh = actual reactive power provided within each interval*

*Base kVARh = corresponding kVARh at 0.85 power factor lagging or 0.9 power factor leading, for the unit's MW loading. For clarity, the MW loading is the unit's Pmin, or RTD schedule, whichever is greater.*

14. Applicants submit that the rates represent a reasonable recovery of its opportunity cost in making available generation capacity to provide the procured AS.
15. The rates under ASPA was subjected to a simulation by NGCP, the results of which are as follows:

Overvoltage Condition	Cost, PhP Mn	Indicative Rate Impact	
		PhP/kW-month	PhP/kWh equivalent
SNAP-Benguet (Ambuklao)	7.20	0.1734	0.0004
Undervoltage Condition	Cost, PhP Mn	Indicative Rate Impact	
		PhP/kW-month	PhP/kWh equivalent
SNAP-Benguet (Ambuklao)	84.01	1.3047	0.0027

A copy of the Rate Impact Simulation is attached hereto as **Annex "C"**.

16. Consistent with the AS-CRM, all the related and incidental expenses which NGCP will incur as a result of the procurement

and operation of the ancillary services shall be recovered from all the load customers in the Luzon.

17. The ASPA shall be effective for a period of five (5) years, to commence immediately upon the effectivity of the provisional approval, or in the absence thereof, the final approval of the instant Application. In the event that the provisional or final approval, as the case may be, does not state a particular date of effectivity, the Agreement shall be effective on the date agreed upon by the Parties.
18. SNAP-BI, as a generation company, falls within the ambit of Section 6 of the EPIRA. Attached are copies of relevant documents proving SNAP-BI's due registration as a generation company, relevant permits to operate the Generation Facility and audited financial statements, as follows:

<b>Document</b>	<b>Annex</b>
<i>Certificate of Compliance</i>	"D"
<i>Summary of Existing Power Supply Agreement</i>	"E"
<i>Articles of Incorporation</i>	"F"
<i>Latest Security Exchange Commission - General Information Sheet</i>	"G"
<i>Latest Audited Financial Statement</i>	"H"
<i>WESM Registration</i>	"I"

While SNAP-BI is a co-applicant, it manifests that the instant Application shall neither modify, diminish or constitute a waiver of SNAP-BI's rights nor expand its obligations and responsibilities as a generation company under EPIRA.

**ALLEGATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE  
PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY**

19. It is a declared policy of the State to ensure the quality, reliability, security and affordability of the supply of electric power (Section 2(b), EPIRA). To this end, there is a need to comply with the system requirements for AS to ensure grid system security and reliability. As mentioned above, NGCP has the mandate to procure the required AS.
20. RPS is one of the ancillary services provided in the PGC that is *essential in maintaining power quality and the reliability of the grid*.<sup>5</sup> SNAP-BI having offered to provide its RPS, will significantly help maintain the required power quality and voltage level in North Luzon. The Generation Facility is strategically located in North Luzon, thus, its provision for RPS will definitely enable NGCP to comply with its mandate.<sup>6</sup>
21. Thus, NGCP and SNAP-BI agreed to execute another ASPA for a period of five years to provide RPS.

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<sup>5</sup> Section 1.6, PGC;

<sup>6</sup> A copy of the List of Ancillary Services Providers in Luzon Certified with Reactive Power Support is attached as **Annex "J"**.

22. In support of these allegations, NGCP submits a copy of the Judicial Affidavit of Engr. Lisaflor Bacani-Kater of the Revenue and Regulatory Affairs Department of NGCP, which is attached hereto as Annex "K".

**PRAYER**

**WHEREFORE**, premises considered, Applicants respectfully pray that the Honorable Commission:

- a) Immediately **ISSUE** a provisional authority to implement the subject ASPA executed on 14 January 2019; and
- b) **APPROVE**, after notice and hearing, the subject ASPA.

Applicants pray for other just and equitable relief.

The Commission has set the *Application* for determination of compliance with the jurisdictional requirements, expository presentation, pre-trial conference, and presentation of evidence on **29 May 2019 (Wednesday), at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 A.M.), at Azalea Residences 7 Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City.**

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the instant case may become a party by filing with the Commission a verified Petition to Intervene at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements under Rule 9 of the 2006 ERC Rules of Practice and Procedure, indicating therein the docket number and title of the case and stating the following:

- 1) The petitioner's name and address;
- 2) The nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and
- 3) A statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the case may file their Opposition or Comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before Applicant rests its case, subject to the requirements under Rule 9 of the 2006 ERC Rules of Practice and Procedure. No particular form of Opposition or Comment is required, but the document, letter, or writing should contain the following:

**ERC CASE NO. 2019-014 RC**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING/ 12 March 2019**  
**PAGE 7 OF 7**

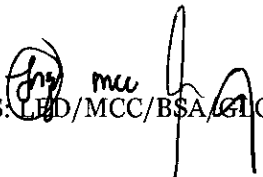
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- 1) The name and address of such person;
- 2) A concise statement of the Opposition or Comment; and
- 3) The grounds relied upon.

All such persons who wish to have a copy of the *Application* may request from Applicants that they be furnished with the same, prior to the date of the initial hearing. NGCP and SNAP-BI are hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the *Application* and its attachments, subject to the reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Any such person may likewise examine the *Application* and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the standard office hours.

**WITNESS**, the Honorable Chairperson and CEO, **AGNES VST DEVANADERA**, and the Honorable Commissioners **CATHERINE P. MACEDA**, and **PAUL CHRISTIAN M. CERVANTES** Energy Regulatory Commission, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019 in Pasig City.

  
**JOSEFINA PATRICIA A. MAGPALE-ASIRIT**  
*Oversight Commissioner for Legal Service*

  
LS: LED/MCC/BSA/GLO