November 16, 2021

Aida Camacho-Welch
Secretary of the Board
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

RE: Docket No. Q021010085 - THE MATTER OF NEW JERSEY GRID MODERNIZATION / INTERCONNECTION PROCESS

Dear Ms. Camacho-Welch,

ANB Systems, Inc. (ANB) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the distributed energy resource (DER) interconnection process in New Jersey. ANB is a leading provider of business process automation with an emphasis in the energy utility industry. One of ANB's products supports the customer application process and the utility interconnection approval of DERs. Last year, ANB facilitated its 50,000[th] utility DER interconnection application. ANB offers these observations on successful interconnection processes.

Guidehouse, in their presentation on October 26, 2021, noted that the current interconnection processes at Electric Distribution Companies (EDC) are a combination of software, PDF/email, or web portals. Having a consistent statewide interconnection process will simply the process for not only for DER developers but customers as well. Having a workflow that logically proceeds from the first steps to the last and reducing redundant information requests, the customer or developer will know where their application stands in the queue and will reduce the amount of back and forth between the customer/developer and the EDC. It is ANB's experience that system automation can significantly reduce application time. In fact, a utility recently reported that using an automated process has reduced review time for DER interconnections from 3 hours in a manual process to seven minutes via a portal; a significant reduction in processing time. Many of these applications are now administratively processed by the system.

Business process automation can aid the approval process. However, training the developer/installer community on the DER application process and how correctly submitted information leads to faster submittal is just as important. ANB's experience is that often applications are slowed or stalled due to incorrect information

being submitted or lag time in getting signatures or other documentation from customer or developers. The DER community should see that a little more work on their part on the front end will lead to quick approval and the sooner they may complete project installation.

ANB looks forward to participating in the stakeholder process and answering any questions concerning our comments.

Sincerely,

S. **Bala**krishnan

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