

ALIDITO

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

		AUDITS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ALLEGED FAILURE OF PYXIS ENERGY GENERATION, LLC TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 48:3-78 ET SEQ., AND THE NEW JERSEY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, N.J.A.C. 14:4-1.1 ET SEQ.	) ) ) )	ORDER ACCEPTING OFFER OF SETTLEMENT DOCKET NO. EO20050358

# Party of Record:

Del A Hilber, Managing Partner, Pyxis Energy Generation

BY THE BOARD:

By this Decision and Order the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") considers an Offer of Settlement of any and all potential violations under the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act ("EDECA", or "Act"), N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq. and more specifically, N.J.S.A. 48:3-78 and N.J.A.C. 14:4-1.1 et seq. (the "Regulations") by Pyxis Energy Generation, LLC ("Pyxis Energy Generation" or "the Company"), which has been operating as an energy agent ("EA") and Private Aggregator ("PA") in New Jersey.

# **BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to EDECA, the Board has authority and jurisdiction over all EAs and PAs in New Jersey. EDECA defines an EA as "a person that is duly registered pursuant to the provisions of [EDECA], that arranges the sale of retail electricity or electric related services, or retail gas supply or gas related services, between government aggregators or private aggregators and electric power suppliers or gas suppliers, but does not take title to the electric or gas sold." N.J.S.A. 48:3-51 (definition of "energy agent"). See also, N.J.A.C. 14:4-1.2. A PA is "a nongovernment aggregator that is a duly-organized business or non-profit organization authorized to do business in this State that enters into a contract with a duly licensed electric power supplier for the purchase of electric energy and capacity, or with a duly licensed gas supplier for the purchase of gas supply service, on behalf of multiple end-use customers by combining the loads of those customers." See also, N.J.A.C. 14:4-1.2.

The Board's implementing rules are found at N.J.A.C. 14:4-1.1 et seq. (the "Regulations"). Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.1(f), "[a] person shall not arrange the retail sale of electricity,

electric-related services, gas supply or gas-related services between an energy aggregator and a TPS without first registering as an energy agent." N.J.S.A. 48:3-78(i) specifies that "any person acting as an energy agent shall be required to register with the board . . . This registration shall be updated annually." See also, N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.8(g).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.8(g) and N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.11(e), the term of an EA or PA registration is valid for one year from the date of issuance unless timely renewals are filed. See also, N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.9. N.J.A.C. 14:4- 5.9(a) and N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.11(a) set forth the obligation of the EA or PA to timely file a renewal application. Specifically, the EA or PA must file a complete renewal application at least thirty (30) days before the expiration date of an active registration. If a timely renewal application is not submitted, the initial registration expires at the end of its term. In the event an EA or PA does not submit a renewal application within thirty (30) days before the end of the registration term, the Registrant must submit a new registration application. Pursuant to EDECA, the Board, among other things, is vested with investigative powers, disciplinary powers, alternative disciplinary powers, and with the authority to assess civil penalties. See N.J.S.A. 48:3-80 et seq. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.1(f) and -5.9(b)(3), a person without a valid EA or PA registration, cannot "act as, or represent themselves to others as, an energy agent . . ." In addition, the Board can deny, suspend, or revoke a registration; impose financial penalties; and prohibit acceptance of new customers. N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.13. In determining the amount of the fines, the Board may consider each day of each violation against each customer as a separate offense. N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.13(c). The Board may also consider any good faith efforts made by the Company; the gravity of the violation; the number of past violations; and the appropriateness of the sanction or fine. N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.13(b).

As an EA and PA, Pyxis Energy Generation is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board and must comply with EDECA and the Regulations.

# **DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

Pyxis Energy Generation's initial registration, Registration No. EA-0511 and PA-0218, were effective for an initial term of August 29, 2018 through August 28, 2019. Pyxis Energy Generation did not renew these registrations with the Board before it expired on August 28, 2019. The Company continued to arrange energy procurement to one customer in New Jersey after expiration of their registrations. On October 7, 2019, an initial application from Pyxis Energy Generation was received by the Board.

Staff has conducted an investigation regarding Pyxis Energy Generation's compliance with the Act and the Regulations. Staff has alleged that Pyxis Energy Generation failed to comply with the registration and renewal requirements under the Act and the Regulations, including N.J.S.A. 48:3-78, N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.1(a)(3), N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.9 and N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.11.

Pyxis Energy Generation has responded promptly and effectively to all Staff requests during the investigation. The Company serves residential, commercial, and industrial customers in New Jersey. Staff has determined that no complaints have been filed with the Board or the Division of Consumer Affairs against Pyxis Energy Generation by any of its New Jersey customers in the last twelve months ending February 12, 2020.

As a result of correspondence and telephone conversations, Pyxis Energy Generation has submitted an Offer of Settlement ("Offer"), which is attached hereto, regarding its alleged violations. In the Offer, Pyxis Energy Generation made a monetary offer in the amount of \$350.00 to resolve all issues concerning the violations alleged by Staff.

The Board has reviewed the matter and <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> that the Offer represents a reasonable settlement of the alleged violations. Therefore, the Board <u>HEREBY ACCEPTS</u> the Offer of Settlement proffered by Pyxis Energy Generation.

The Board will **CONSIDER** under a separate docket number the initial application filed by Pyxis Energy Generation on October 7, 2019. The Offer of Settlement is accepted subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Pyxis Energy Generation will pay to the State of New Jersey the sum of Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$350.00) in full and final settlement of any and all potential violations under the Act and/or the Regulations, which have been or could have been alleged by the Board or the Staff against Pyxis Energy Generation, up to and including May 15, 2020.
- 2. This Offer of Settlement shall not relieve Pyxis Energy Generation or its parents, affiliates, subsidiaries or successors, from any liability for violations, if any, of the Act, the Regulations, or Board Orders that may occur after May 15, 2020.
- 3. Any future repeated violation(s) of the Act, the Regulations, or Board Orders by or its parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, or successors that may now or in the future arranges energy services that is the subject of this Offer of Settlement, shall be deemed to be a second, third, or subsequent violation, as appropriate, pursuant to provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:3-83.Pyxis Energy Generation will comply with all provisions of the Act and Regulations regarding registration renewal requirements as set forth at N.J.S.A. 48:3-78, N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.8 and N.J.A.C. 14:4-5.9.
- 4. The execution of this Offer of Settlement shall not be relied upon by Pyxis Energy Generation or its affiliates, subsidiaries or successors in an attempt to mitigate any future claim that any such entity has violated the terms and conditions of the Act, the Regulations, or any Board Order.

The Board <u>FURTHER ORDERS</u> that no later than ten (10) days from the Effective Date of this Order, Pyxis Energy Generation shall pay the Settlement Payment of Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$350.00). Payment must be made out to the **TREASURER**, **STATE OF NEW JERSEY** and

Sent to: Jonathan Wallace, Interim Chief Fiscal Officer

Board of Public Utilities Post Office Box 350

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Attn: Audits

A copy of this Order must be included with the settlement check.

The Board's acceptance of the Offer of Settlement is for purposes of this proceeding only, addresses any and all allegations or potential allegations in the Offer of Settlement, and shall not be construed as limiting the Board's authority in any other matter affecting Pyxis Energy Generation or a successor company.

This Order shall be effective on July 12, 2020.

DATED: July 2, 2020

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** 

BY:

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

**PRESIDENT** 

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN COMMISSIONER

Jay-Anna Holden

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH

**SECRETARY** 

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GORDON COMMISSIONER

# IN THE MATTER OF THE ALLEGED FAILURE OF PYXIS ENERGY GENERATION, LLC TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 48:3-78 ET SEQ., AND THE NEW JERSEY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, N.J.A.C. 14:4-1.1 ET SEQ.

#### **OFFER OF SETTLEMENT**

#### **DOCKET NO. E020050358**

# **SERVICE LIST**

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Philip D. Murphy **Governor** 

Sheila Y. Oliver **Lt. Governor** 

# State of New Jersey

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor
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July 2, 2020

Joseph L. Fiordaliso President

Mary-Anna Holden **Commissioner** 

Dianne Solomon Commissioner

Upendra Chivukula **Commissioner** 

Bob Gordon Commissioner

Del A Hilber, Managing Partner Pyxis Energy Generation 1 Vale Road, Suite A Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Re: Energy Agent Initial Registration

Docket No. EE19101338L

Dear Mr. Hilber:

In accordance with the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act of 1999, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq., at its July 2, 2020 Agenda meeting, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities issued the **REGISTRATION**, number EA-0601, as an Energy Agent issued to Pyxis Energy Generation.

This registration is effective July 2, 2020 and will expire on July 1, 2021. This registration and the rights thereunder are **Non-Transferable.** 

This letter is not an endorsement of, nor is it intended for use in, the marketing promotions of the registrant. Registrants shall comply with all applicable law, including the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, which prohibits the unauthorized change of a customer's energy provider and other fraudulent and illegal marketing activities.

If you have any questions, please contact Dante Cusi at (609) 292-1356.

Sincerely,

Aida Camacho-Welch Secretary of the Board

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ACW/dec