Envelope No. 55730433 By: Keeley Hodgins Filed: 7/27/2021 10:59 AM

# CAUSE NO. 2021-11518

| THE STATE OF TEXAS,   | § | IN THE DISTRICT COURT               |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Plaintiff,            | § |                                     |
|                       | § |                                     |
| <b>v.</b>             | § |                                     |
|                       | § | 133 <sup>RD</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT |
| GRIDDY ENERGY LLC and | § |                                     |
| GRIDDY HOLDINGS LLC,  | § |                                     |
| Defendants.           | Š | HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS                |

# AGREED FINAL JUDGMENT AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION

### TO THE HONORABLE DISTRICT JUDGE:

On this \_\_\_\_ day of , 2021, came for hearing on the above-entitled and numbered cause in which the State of Texas ("State"), acting by and through its Attorney General, KEN PAXTON, is Plaintiff and GRIDDY ENERGY LLC1 and GRIDDY HOLDINGS, LLC2 are Defendants (Defendants). In this action, the State alleged that Defendants engaged in false, misleading, and deceptive acts and practices in violation of § 17.46 of the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act ("DTPA"), TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE § 17.41 et seq. Pursuant to an agreement among the Parties, this case has been abated, and neither of the Defendants has made an appearance. The Parties, by and through their attorneys of record, have made the following stipulations and agree to the entry of this Agreed Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction (AFJPI) as a compromise and settlement of disputed claims. Defendants continue to deny liability or violation of law, and the Parties enter into this AFJPI without any admission or finding of wrongdoing or liability.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Griddy Energy, LLC, is currently the Debtor in In re Griddy Energy LLC, Case No. 21-30923, pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. As such, Griddy Energy, LLC may be referred to herein as "Debtor" or "Defendant."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Delaware SOS file # 4018722.

Plaintiff and Defendants announced their agreement and consent to the entry of this Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction as to the claims of Plaintiff against Defendants, waiving the making of a further record other than this Judgment and Permanent Injunction and the Bankruptcy Court Order (as defined below) entered in *In re Griddy Energy LLC*, Case No. 21-30923, pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division (the "Bankruptcy Court") approving a related settlement by the Parties, and prior to the offering of any further testimony or evidence in this cause, jointly move the Court to enter this Judgment as a Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction against Defendants Griddy Energy LLC and Griddy Holdings, LLC.

#### **STIPULATIONS**

- 1. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter in this action under the DTPA. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Griddy Energy LLC, subject to the fact that said Defendant is currently the Debtor in a chapter 11 proceeding in a case pending before the Bankruptcy Court. Defendant Griddy Holdings LLC disputes that the Court has personal jurisdiction over it, but for the limited purpose of entering into this AFJPI, agrees to be bound by the AFJPI. Defendant Griddy Holdings LLC expressly retains and does not waive its right to challenge this Court's or any other Texas court's exercise of personal jurisdiction over it for any purpose other than for entering or enforcing this AFJPI.
- 2. This AFJPI does not constitute an approval of Defendants' business and practices by the State or the Court.
- 3. Plaintiff stipulates that Defendants continue to deny liability or violation of law and enters this AFJPI without an admission of liability. Plaintiff stipulates that Defendants have not

admitted to a violation of law. The Parties stipulate that this Court has not made any finding of wrongdoing or violation of any law by Defendants and the Parties shall not represent otherwise.

- 4. The Parties agree to the entry of this AFJPI and agree that the Court has continuing jurisdiction to enforce this AFJPI.
- 5. This AFJPI sets forth the entire agreement between the Parties and there are no other representations or agreements between the Parties not stated in writing herein and is consistent with the Order entered in the Bankruptcy Court in the case of *In re: Griddy Energy LLC*, pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9019(a) Approving the Settlement between the Debtor and the State of Texas.
- 6. Defendants stipulate that in reaching this agreement, Plaintiff has relied upon the Defendants' agreement that (a) if Defendant's/Debtor's, Griddy Energy LLC's, Chapter 11 Plan of Liquidation (as amended, modified, or supplemented from time to time, the "Plan") is confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court in the *In re Griddy Energy LLC*, bankruptcy proceedings; and (b) the confirmed Plan goes effective; then (c) Defendants and any affiliates or successor(s) in interest will not assert any claims for non-payment for electricity services incurred during the timeframe of February 13, 2021 through February 19, 2021 against the Participating Customers.<sup>3</sup>
- 7. Defendants are aware of the terms and duties placed upon them by the AFJPI, acknowledge that they have fully read and understand this AFJPI, accept the legal consequences involved in signing this AFJPI, and represent that they are desirous and capable of carrying out the terms and duties of this AFJPI in full.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Participating Customers" means those former customers of Defendant/Debtor, Griddy Energy LLC, that voted to accept the Plan or abstained from voting on the Plan, and who do not opt-out of the Customer Releases within the timeframe provided for in the Plan or any order confirming the Plan. "Customer Releases" is a term defined in the Plan.

8. Defendants acknowledge receipt of copies of this AFJPI and stipulate to the waiver of issuance and service of a writ of injunction.

9. The Parties agree that, should any clause, provision, or section of this AFJPI, for any reason, be held illegal, invalid, or unenforceable, such illegality, invalidity, or unenforceability shall not affect any other clause, provision, or section of this AFJPI, and this AFJPI shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid, or unenforceable clause, section or provision had not been contained herein.

10. The Parties agree to waive the thirty (30) day period in which to file a Motion for New Trial and waive any and all rights to appeal this AFJPI.

# AGREED PERMANENT INJUNCTION

- 11. Pursuant to and consistent with the Parties' agreement to enter into the AFJPI without any admission or finding of wrongdoing or liability on the part of any Defendant, and without abridging Defendants' continued denial of any and all liability or wrongdoing, IT IS ORDERED that GRIDDY ENERGY LLC and GRIDDY HOLDINGS, LLC, their officers, agents, servants, employees, successors in interest, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the AFJPI by personal service or otherwise are hereby PERMANENTLY ENJOINED from the following:
  - a. Making false or misleading statements regarding electricity rates offered by Defendants;
  - b. Making false or misleading statements concerning the reasons for, existence of, or amount of price reductions by representing that electricity prices are indexed to a wholesale price if such index does not exist or offering a wholesale indexed product to a residential customer or small business customer unless the offering of such is

permitted by law;

- Using false, misleading, or unsubstantiated testimonial endorsements to promote
   Defendants' services;
- d. Misrepresenting the savings consumers can expect to receive as a result of using
   Defendants' services;
- e. Misrepresenting the reason for any price increase, disruption of service, or transfer of service;
- f. Disparaging the services of another retail electricity provider by making misleading comparison representations;
- g. Failing to maintain accurate information to the best of their ability concerning the likelihood and extent of fluctuations in electricity prices, including any increases;
- h. Failing to disclose, in a clear and conspicuous<sup>4</sup> manner, the likelihood and extent of electricity price increases based on historic pricing information of retail electricity in Texas:
- i. Collecting fees or payments for services without clearly and conspicuously disclosing on Defendants' internet websites, advertisements, and any other marketing and promotional materials offered by Defendants that electricity prices may increase to the specifically identified high system-wide offer cap during severe weather or other disasters; and
- j. If the Plan is confirmed and goes effective, failing to cease any and all collection

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> "Clear and conspicuous" here and throughout this AFJPI shall mean that statements, disclosures or other information, by whatever medium communicated, including all electronic devices are (a) in readily understandable language and syntax, and (b) in a type size, font, color, appearance and location sufficiently proximate and noticeable for a consumer to read and comprehend them and be presented in a print that contrasts against which they appear.

or credit reporting efforts for electricity use from February 13 through February 19, 2021 solely as the foregoing pertains to Participating Customers who do not optout of the Customer Releases provided for in the Plan at any time.

# MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 12. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that nothing in this AFJPI shall create any private rights, causes of action, or remedies against Defendants and nothing in the AFJPI shall be construed as a waiver of any private rights, causes of action, or remedies of any person against Defendants with respect to the practices or conduct described herein.
- 13. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants, by their signature below, hereby acknowledge notice of this AFJPI and acceptance of the same. Each of Plaintiff and Defendants may enforce the AFJPI through any procedure or process available under the laws of the State of Texas. The Court retains continuing jurisdiction to enforce this AFJPI.
- 14. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this AFJPI is final. The State hereby fully releases, waives, and discharges Defendants and their present and former officers, agents, representatives, and employees, subject to the foregoing injunction, from any claims arising out of or related to facts alleged in this underlying cause which were brought or could have been brought in a Texas State Court, in Bankruptcy Court, or any other court of competent jurisdiction by the Consumer Protection Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office including for alleged violations of the DTPA, prior to the date this AFJPI is entered by the Court. This AFJPI does not, however, affect the rights of or remedies available to any third party that is not subject to this order, except as provided by law.

| SIGNED this | day of | , 2021.              | 10 0 0                  |
|-------------|--------|----------------------|-------------------------|
|             |        | Signed:<br>8/26/2021 | Josefuel Moore Me Fulul |
|             |        | JUDGE P              | RESIDING                |

# AGREED AS TO SUBSTANCE AND FORM AND ENTRY REQUESTED:

KEN PAXTON Attorney General of Texas

BRENT WEBSTER First Assistant Attorney General

GRANT DORFMAN
Deputy First Assistant Attorney General

NANETTE DINUNZIO Associate Deputy Attorney General for Civil Litigation

PAUL SINGER Associate Deputy Attorney General for Civil Litigation

STEVEN ROBINSON
Division Chief, Consumer Protection Division

STEVEN ROBINSON

SBN: 24046738

steven.robinson@oag.texas.gov

Lead Counsel of Record VALERIA SARTORIO

SBN 24073758

valeria.sartorio@oag.texas.gov

112 E. Pecan Street, Suite 735

San Antonio, Texas 78205

T: (210) 270-1110 F: (210) 225-1075

RICK BERLIN SBN 24055161 rick.berlin@oag.texas.gov WILLIAM CARPENTER SBN 24081560 william.carpenter@oag.texas.gov

State of Texas v. Griddy Energy LLC
Agreed Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction

DAN ZWART SBN: 24070906

dan.zwart@oag.texas.gov 808 Travis Street, Suite 1520

Houston, Texas 77002

T: (713) 223-5886 F: (713) 223-5821

Assistant Attorneys General Consumer Protection Division Office of the Texas Attorney General

Counsel for the State of Texas

JOHN B. LAWRENCE

Partner

State Bar No.: 24055825

Baker Botts L.L.P. 2001 Ross Ave. Dallas, Texas 75205

John.Lawrence@bakerbotts.com

Direct: +1.214.953.6873

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANTS GRIDDY ENERGY LLC AND GRIDDY HOLDINGS LLC