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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

**In the Matter of the Application for
Amendment to the Certificate of Public
Convenience and Necessity of Ticaboo
Utility Improvement District**

**APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO
THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF
TICABOO UTILITY IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT**

Docket No. _____

Ticaboo Utility Improvement District (“**TUID**”), through its undersigned counsel, hereby applies to the Commission for an amendment to its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in order to expand TUID’s certificated service area.

TUID (at the time known as Ticaboo Electric Improvement District) was granted its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (#2508) by the Commission on November 30, 2009 as part of Docket No. 09-2508-01. The map of TUID’s certificated service area from that docket is filed herewith as **Exhibit A**.

TUID is a local district operating under the provisions of Utah Code Title 17B (Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Local Districts) and is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by Garfield County. TUID provides electrical, water, sewer, and garbage service and is funded solely by user fees for those services. TUID does not levy any property taxes and has no

plans to do so. As an “electric district” as defined in Utah Code § 17B-2a-404(1)(c) (“an improvement district that was created for the purpose of providing electric service”), TUID is not only a governmental entity but also a public utility subject to limited regulation by the Utah Public Service Commission. TUID is one of only two electric districts in Utah.

Ticaboo began as a mining camp for several nearby uranium mines, which are now either closed or mothballed. Today, Ticaboo serves as a stopping point for visitors to Bullfrog Marina approximately 13 miles south on Utah State Route 276. Ticaboo is completely “off the grid,” meaning that all power consumed in town is provided by TUID’s diesel generators or, to a lesser extent, TUID’s solar facilities. Ticaboo will remain off the grid for the foreseeable future as connection to the existing electrical grid would require a 55-mile transmission line along Route 276 and Route 95 to Hanksville, at an estimated cost of approximately \$140 million. TUID continues to work to reduce utility costs in Ticaboo. During the last several years, TUID replaced all of its decades-old diesel generators (left over from mine operations, the oldest unit from 1959) with more-efficient, emissions-compliant modern units through a loan from the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board and installed solar power generation systems to run TUID’s two culinary water well pumps on 100 percent solar power with a loan from the Utah Drinking Water Board. TUID continues to explore potential methods to reduce utility costs in this remote corner of Utah and has determined that expanding its service area would result in reduced costs to utility customers.

TUID has reached a point at which its infrastructure is functional, its power generation equipment is modern and efficient, and its rates are stable. Since TUID self-generates all of its power and the costs of that power are borne by a relatively small customer base, rates are very high compared to other areas in Utah. TUID constantly seeks to reduce costs and has determined

that expanding its customer base would allow for lower rates for all customers. TUID has expertise in off-grid distributed generation, personnel who know the Lake Powell area, and relationships with various suppliers and organizations that make TUID ideally suited to serve these remote areas.

At the recommendation of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), TUID seeks to expand its service area to include Bullfrog Marina, Halls Crossing Marina, Dangling Rope Marina, and Hite Ranger Station along with much of the area immediately surrounding Lake Powell. The current service area boundary and the approximate proposed expansion are shown on the map enclosed with this filing as **Exhibit B**. The National Park Service desires a single electric provider for the marinas and the area around Lake Powell. TUID is uniquely suited to provide electrical service to the Lake Powell area as neither Rocky Mountain Power nor Garkane Energy serve the areas in question and no other public electric utilities exist in the vicinity. TUID has many years of experience providing off-grid electrical service, especially in the very rural areas in this part of Utah. The National Park Service facilities around Lake Powell are effectively the only options for additional customers for TUID and this proposed service area expansion is a foundational piece of TUID's plans to serve these facilities.

Attached to this filing are letters of support from Garfield County, Kane County, San Juan County, and Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (as **Exhibits C-F**).

TUID recognizes that the precise boundaries of the expanded service area may require modifications and that such changes may require the cooperation of Rocky Mountain Power and Garkane Energy. TUID respectfully requests that the Commission, along with the Division of Public Utilities and the Office of Consumer Services, assist TUID in moving this process forward. The timing of this expansion is very important for TUID and its customers as the National Park

Service will likely move forward with changes to its electrical power production arrangements during the first half of 2018.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of January, 2018.

SMITH HARTVIGSEN, PLLC

/s/ Adam S. Long

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*Attorneys for Ticaboo Utility Improvement
District*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF TICABOO UTILITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT was served as indicated on the following on January 9, 2018:

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