

RUS PROJECT DESIGNATION:

COLORADO 33-AB44 DOLORES

RESTATED MORTGAGE
AND
SECURITY AGREEMENT

made by and among

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
801 North Broadway
Cortez, Colorado 81321,

Mortgagor, and

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Rural Utilities Service
Washington, D.C. 20250-1500,

Mortgagee, and

NATIONAL RURAL UTILITIES COOPERATIVE FINANCE CORPORATION
2201 Cooperative Way
Herndon, Virginia 20171-3025,

Mortgagee

Dated as of August 1, 2007

THIS INSTRUMENT GRANTS A SECURITY INTEREST IN A TRANSMITTING UTILITY.
THE DEBTOR AS MORTGAGOR IS A TRANSMITTING UTILITY.
THIS INSTRUMENT CONTAINS PROVISIONS THAT COVER REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY, FIXTURES, AFTER-ACQUIRED
PROPERTY, PROCEEDS, FUTURE ADVANCES AND FUTURE OBLIGATIONS.
TAXPAYER'S IDENTIFICATION NO. 84-0197395.
MORTGAGOR'S ORGANIZATIONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IS 19871104688.

No. _____

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EXHIBIT

RESTATED MORTGAGE AND SECURITY AGREEMENT, dated as of August 1, 2007 (hereinafter sometimes called this "Mortgage"), is made by and among EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC. (hereinafter called the "Mortgagor"), a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Colorado, and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA acting by and through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service (hereinafter called the "Government") and NATIONAL RURAL UTILITIES COOPERATIVE FINANCE CORPORATION (hereinafter called "CFC"), a corporation existing under the laws of the District of Columbia, and is intended to confer rights and benefits on both the Government and CFC, as well as any and all other lenders pursuant to Article II of this Mortgage that enter into a supplemental mortgage in accordance with Section 2.04 of Article II hereof (the Government and CFC and any such other lenders being herein sometimes collectively referred to as the "Mortgagees").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Mortgagor, the Government and CFC are parties to that certain Restated Mortgage and Security Agreement dated as of December 1, 1999, as supplemented, amended or restated (the "Original Mortgage" identified in Schedule "A" of this Mortgage) originally entered into among the Mortgagor, the Government acting by and through the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, the predecessor of RUS, and CFC;

WHEREAS, the Mortgagor deems it necessary to borrow money for its corporate purposes and to issue its promissory notes and other debt obligations therefor from time to time in one or more series, and to mortgage and pledge its property hereinafter described or mentioned to secure the payment of the same;

WHEREAS, the Mortgagor desires to enter into this Mortgage pursuant to which all secured debt of the Mortgagor hereunder shall be secured on parity;

WHEREAS, this Mortgage restates and consolidates the Original Mortgage while preserving the priority of the Lien under the Original Mortgage securing the payment of Mortgagor's outstanding obligations secured under the Original Mortgage, which indebtedness is described more particularly by listing the Original Notes in Schedule "A" hereto; and

WHEREAS, all acts necessary to make this Mortgage a valid and binding legal instrument for the security of such notes and obligations, subject to the terms of this Mortgage, have been in all respects duly authorized;

NOW, THEREFORE, THIS MORTGAGE WITNESSETH: That to secure the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the Original Notes and all Notes issued hereunder according to their tenor and effect, and the performance of all provisions therein and herein contained, and in consideration of the covenants herein contained, the purchase or guarantee of Notes by the guarantors or holders thereof, and other good and valuable consideration, the Mortgagor has mortgaged, pledged and granted a continuing security interest in, and by these presents does hereby grant, bargain, sell, alienate, remise, release, convey, assign, transfer, hypothecate, pledge, set over and confirm, pledge, and grant a continuing security interest and lien in for the purposes hereinafter expressed, unto the Mortgagees all property, assets, rights, privileges and franchises of the Mortgagor of every kind and description, real, personal or mixed, tangible and intangible, of the kind or nature specifically mentioned herein OR ANY OTHER KIND OR NATURE, except any Excepted Property, now owned or hereafter acquired or arising by the Mortgagor (by purchase, consolidation, merger, donation, construction, erection or in any other way) wherever located, including (without limitation) all and singular the following:

GRANTING CLAUSE FIRST

- A. all of those fee and leasehold interests in real property set forth in Schedule "B" hereto, subject in each case to those matters set forth in such Schedule;
- B. all of the Mortgagor's interest in fixtures, easements, permits, licenses and rights-of-way comprising real

property, and all other interests in real property, comprising any portion of the Utility System (as herein defined) located in the Counties listed in Schedule "B" hereto;

- C. all right, title and interest of the Mortgagor in and to those contracts of the Mortgagor
- (i) relating to the ownership, operation or maintenance of any generation, transmission or distribution facility owned, whether solely or jointly, by the Mortgagor,
 - (ii) for the purchase of electric power and energy by the Mortgagor and having an original term in excess of 3 years,
 - (iii) for the sale of electric power and energy by the Mortgagor and having an original term in excess of 3 years, and
 - (iv) for the transmission of electric power and energy by or on behalf of the Mortgagor and having an original term in excess of 3 years, including in respect of any of the foregoing, any amendments, supplements and replacements thereto;
- D. all the property, rights, privileges, allowances and franchises particularly described in the annexed Schedule "B" are hereby made a part of, and deemed to be described in, this Granting Clause as fully as if set forth in this Granting Clause at length; and

ALSO ALL OTHER PROPERTY, real estate, lands, easements, servitudes, licenses, permits, allowances, consents, franchises, privileges, rights of way and other rights in or relating to real estate or the occupancy of the same; all power sites, storage rights, water rights, water locations, water appropriations, ditches, flumes, reservoirs, reservoir sites, canals, raceways, waterways, dams, dam sites, aqueducts, and all other rights or means for appropriating, conveying, storing and supplying water; all rights of way and roads; all plants for the generation of electric and other forms of energy (whether now known or hereafter developed) by steam, water, sunlight, chemical processes and/or (without limitation) all other sources of power (whether now known or hereafter developed); all power houses, gas plants, street lighting systems, standards and other equipment incidental thereto; all telephone, radio, television and other communications, image and data transmission systems, air conditioning systems and equipment incidental thereto, water wheels, waterworks, water systems, steam and hot water plants, substations, lines, service and supply systems, bridges, culverts, tracks, ice or refrigeration plants and equipment, offices, buildings and other structures and the equipment thereto, all machinery, engines, boilers, dynamos, turbines, electric, gas and other machines, prime movers, regulators, meters, transformers, generators (including, but not limited to, engine-driven generators and turbo generator units), motors, electrical, gas and mechanical appliances, conduits, cables, water, steam, gas or other pipes, gas mains and pipes, service pipes, fittings, valves and connections, pole and transmission lines, towers, overhead conductors and devices, underground conduits, underground conductors and devices, wires, cables, tools, implements, apparatus, storage battery equipment, and all other equipment, fixtures and personalty; all municipal and other franchises, consents, certificates or permits; all emissions allowances; all lines for the transmission and distribution of electric current and other forms of energy, gas, steam, water or communications, images and data for any purpose including towers, poles, wires, cables, pipes, conduits, ducts and all apparatus for use in connection therewith, and (except as hereinbefore or hereinafter expressly excepted) all the right, title and interest of the Mortgagor in and to all other property of any kind or nature appertaining to and/or used and/or occupied and/or employed in connection with any property hereinbefore described, but in all circumstances excluding Excepted Property;

GRANTING CLAUSE SECOND

With the exception of Excepted Property, all right, title and interest of the Mortgagor in, to and under all personal property and fixtures of every kind and nature including without limitation all goods (including inventory, equipment and any accessions thereto), instruments (including promissory notes), documents, accounts, chattel paper, electronic chattel paper, deposit accounts (including, but not limited to, money held in a trust account

pursuant hereto or to a loan agreement), letter-of-credit rights, investment property (including certificated and uncertificated securities, security entitlements and securities accounts), software, general intangibles (including, but not limited to, payment intangibles), supporting obligations, any other contract rights or rights to the payment of money, insurance claims, and proceeds (as such terms are presently or hereinafter defined in the applicable UCC; provided, however that the term "instrument" shall be such term as defined in Article 9 of the applicable UCC rather than Article 3);

GRANTING CLAUSE THIRD

With the exception of Excepted Property, all right, title and interest of the Mortgagor in, to and under any and all agreements, leases or contracts heretofore or hereafter executed by and between the Mortgagor and any person, firm or corporation relating to the Mortgaged Property (including contracts for the lease, occupancy or sale of the Mortgaged Property, or any portion thereof);

GRANTING CLAUSE FOURTH

With the exception of Excepted Property, all right title and interest of the Mortgagor in, to and under any and all books, records and correspondence relating to the Mortgaged Property, including, but not limited to all records, ledgers, leases and computer and automatic machinery software and programs, including without limitation, programs, databases, disc or tape files and automatic machinery print outs, runs and other computer prepared information indicating, summarizing, evidencing or otherwise necessary or helpful in the collection of or realization on the Mortgaged Property;

GRANTING CLAUSE FIFTH

All other property, real, personal or mixed, of whatever kind and description and wheresoever situated, including without limitation goods, accounts, money held in a trust account pursuant hereto or to a loan agreement, and general intangibles now owned or which may be hereafter acquired by the Mortgagor, but excluding Excepted Property, now owned or which may be hereafter acquired by the Mortgagor, it being the intention hereof that all property, rights, privileges, allowances and franchises now owned by the Mortgagor or acquired by the Mortgagor after the date hereof (other than Excepted Property) shall be as fully embraced within and subjected to the lien hereof as if such property were specifically described herein;

GRANTING CLAUSE SIXTH

Also any Excepted Property that may, from time to time hereafter, by delivery or by writing of any kind, be subjected to the lien hereof by the Mortgagor or by anyone in its behalf; and any Mortgagee is hereby authorized to receive the same at any time as additional security hereunder for the benefit of all the Mortgagees. Such subjection to the lien hereof of any Excepted Property as additional security may be made subject to any reservations, limitations or conditions which shall be set forth in a written instrument executed by the Mortgagor or the person so acting in its behalf or by such Mortgagee respecting the use and disposition of such property or the proceeds thereof;

GRANTING CLAUSE SEVENTH

Together with (subject to the rights of the Mortgagor set forth in Section 5.01) all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances belonging or in anywise appertaining to the aforesaid property or any part thereof, with the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders and all the tolls, earnings, rents, issues, profits, revenues and other income, products and proceeds of the property subjected or required to be subjected to the lien of this Mortgage, and all other property of any nature appertaining to any of the plants, systems, business or operations of the Mortgagor, whether or not affixed to the realty, used in the operation of any of the premises or plants or the Utility System, or otherwise, which are now owned or acquired by the Mortgagor, and all the estate, right, title and interest of every nature whatsoever, at law as well as in equity, of the Mortgagor in and to the same and every part thereof (other than Excepted Property with respect to any of the foregoing).

EXCEPTED PROPERTY

There is, however, expressly excepted and excluded from the lien and operation of this Mortgage the following described property of the Mortgagor, now owned or hereafter acquired (herein sometimes referred to as "Excepted Property"):

- A. all shares of stock, securities or other interests of the Mortgagor in the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation and CoBank, ACB and its predecessors in interest other than any stock, securities or other interests that are specifically described in Subclause D of Granting Clause First as being subjected to the lien hereof;
- B. all rolling stock (except mobile substations), automobiles, buses, trucks, truck cranes, tractors, trailers and similar vehicles and movable equipment which are titled and/or registered in any state of the United States of America, and all tools, accessories and supplies used in connection with any of the foregoing;
- C. all vessels, boats, ships, barges and other marine equipment, all airplanes, airplane engines and other flight equipment, and all tools, accessories and supplies used in connection with any of the foregoing;
- D. all office furniture, equipment and supplies that is not data processing, accounting or other computer equipment or software;
- E. all leasehold interests for office purposes;
- F. all leasehold interests of the Mortgagor under leases for an original term (including any period for which the Mortgagor shall have a right of renewal) of less than five (5) years;
- G. all timber and crops (both growing and harvested) and all coal, ore, gas, oil and other minerals (both in place or severed);
- H. the last day of the term of each leasehold estate (oral or written) and any agreement therefor, now or hereafter enjoyed by the Mortgagor and whether falling within a general or specific description of property herein: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that the Mortgagor covenants and agrees that it will hold each such last day in trust for the use and benefit of all of the Mortgagees and Noteholders and that it will dispose of each such last day from time to time in accordance with such written order as the Mortgagee in its discretion may give;
- I. all permits, licenses, franchises, contracts, agreements, contract rights and other rights not specifically subjected or required to be subjected to the lien hereof by the express provisions of this Mortgage, whether now owned or hereafter acquired by the Mortgagor, which by their terms or by reason of applicable law would become void or voidable if mortgaged or pledged hereunder by the Mortgagor, or which cannot be granted, conveyed, mortgaged, transferred or assigned by this Mortgage without the consent of other parties whose consent has been withheld, or without subjecting any Mortgagee to a liability not otherwise contemplated by the provisions of this Mortgage, or which otherwise may not be, hereby lawfully and effectively granted, conveyed, mortgaged, transferred and assigned by the Mortgagor; and
- J. the property identified in Schedule "C" hereto.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that (i) if, upon the occurrence of an Event of Default, any Mortgagee, or any receiver appointed pursuant to statutory provision or order of court, shall have entered into possession of all or substantially all of the Mortgaged Property, all the Excepted Property described or referred to in the foregoing Subdivisions A through H, inclusive, then owned or thereafter acquired by the Mortgagor shall immediately, and, in the case of any Excepted Property described or referred to in Subdivisions I through J, inclusive, upon demand of any Mortgagee or such receiver, become subject to the lien hereof to the extent permitted by law, and any Mortgagee or such receiver may, to the extent permitted by law, at the same time likewise take possession thereof, and (ii)

whenever all Events of Default shall have been cured and the possession of all or substantially all of the Mortgaged Property shall have been restored to the Mortgagor, such Excepted Property shall again be excepted and excluded from the lien hereof to the extent and otherwise as hereinabove set forth.

However, pursuant to Granting Clause Sixth, the Mortgagor may subject to the lien of this Mortgage any Excepted Property, whereupon the same shall cease to be Excepted Property;

HABENDUM

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all said property, rights, privileges and franchises of every kind and description, real, personal or mixed, hereby and hereafter (by supplemental mortgage or otherwise) granted, bargained, sold, aliened, remised, released, conveyed, assigned, transferred, mortgaged, encumbered, hypothecated, pledged, set over, confirmed, or subjected to a continuing security interest and lien as aforesaid, together with all the appurtenances thereto appertaining (said properties, rights, privileges and franchises, including any cash and securities hereafter deposited with any Mortgagee (other than any such cash, if any, which is specifically stated herein not to be deemed part of the Mortgaged Property), being herein collectively called the "Mortgaged Property") unto the Mortgagees and the respective assigns of the Mortgagees forever, to secure equally and ratably the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the Notes, according to their terms, without preference, priority or distinction as to interest or principal (except as otherwise specifically provided herein) or as to lien or otherwise of any Note over any other Note by reason of the priority in time of the execution, delivery or maturity thereof or of the assignment or negotiation thereof, or otherwise, and to secure the due performance of all of the covenants, agreements and provisions herein and in the Loan Agreements contained, and for the uses and purposes and upon the terms, conditions, provisos and agreements hereinafter expressed and declared.

SUBJECT, HOWEVER, to Permitted Encumbrances (as defined in Section 1.01).

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS & OTHER PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

Section 1.01. Definitions.

In addition to the terms defined elsewhere in this Mortgage, the terms defined in this Article I shall have the meanings specified herein and under the UCC, unless the context clearly requires otherwise. The terms defined herein include the plural as well as the singular and the singular as well as the plural.

Accounting Requirements shall mean the requirements of any system of accounts prescribed by RUS so long as the Government is the holder, insurer or guarantor of any Notes, or, in the absence thereof, the requirements of generally accepted accounting principles applicable to businesses similar to that of the Mortgagor.

Additional Notes shall mean any Government Notes issued by the Mortgagor to the Government or guaranteed or insured as to payment by the Government and any Notes issued by the Mortgagor to any other lender, in either case pursuant to Article II of this Mortgage, including any refunding, renewal, or substitute Notes or Government Notes which may from time to time be executed and delivered by the Mortgagor pursuant to the terms of Article II.

Board shall mean either the Board of Directors or the Board of Trustees, as the case may be, of the Mortgagor.

Business Day shall mean any day that the Government is open for business.

Debt Service Coverage Ratio ("DSC") shall mean the ratio determined as follows: for each calendar year add

- (i) Patronage Capital or Margins of the Mortgagor,
- (ii) Interest Expense on Total Long Term Debt of the Mortgagor (as computed in accordance with the principles set forth in the definition of TIER) and
- (iii) Depreciation and Amortization Expense of the Mortgagor, and divide the total so obtained by an amount equal to the sum of all payments of principal and interest required to be made on account of Total Long-Term Debt during such calendar year increasing said sum by any addition to interest expense on account of Restricted Rentals as computed with respect to the Times Interest Earned Ratio herein.

Depreciation and Amortization Expense shall mean an amount constituting the depreciation and amortization of the Mortgagor as computed pursuant to Accounting Requirements.

Electric System shall mean, and shall be broadly construed to encompass and include, all of the Mortgagor's interests in all electric production, transmission, distribution, conservation, load management, general plant and other related facilities, equipment or property and in any mine, well, pipeline, plant, structure or other facility for the development, production, manufacture, storage, fabrication or processing of fossil, nuclear or other fuel of any kind or in any facility or rights with respect to the supply of water, in each case for use, in whole or in major part, in any of the Mortgagor's generating plants, now existing or hereafter acquired by lease, contract, purchase or otherwise or constructed by the Mortgagor, including any interest or participation of the Mortgagor in any such facilities or any rights to the output or capacity thereof, together with all additions, betterments, extensions and improvements to such Electric System or any part thereof hereafter made and together with all lands, easements and rights-of-way of the Mortgagor and all other works, property or structures of the Mortgagor and contract rights and other tangible and intangible assets of the Mortgagor used or useful in connection with or related to such Electric System, including without limitation a contract right or other contractual arrangement referred to in Granting Clause First, Subclause C, but excluding any Excepted Property.

Environmental Law and Environmental Laws shall mean all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and requirements related to protection of human health or the environment, including but not limited to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) and the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), and any amendments and implementing regulations of such acts.

Equity shall mean the total margins and equities computed pursuant to Accounting Requirements, but excluding any Regulatory Created Assets.

Event of Default shall have the meaning specified in Section 4.01 hereof.

Excepted Property shall have the meaning stated in the Granting Clauses.

Government shall mean the United States of America acting by and through the Administrator of RUS or REA and shall include its successors and assigns.

Government Notes shall mean the Original Notes, and any Additional Notes, issued by the Mortgagor to the Government, or guaranteed or insured as to payment by the Government.

Independent shall mean when used with respect to any specified person or entity means such a person or entity who (1) is in fact independent, (2) does not have any direct financial interest or any material indirect financial interest in the Mortgagor or in any affiliate of the Mortgagor and (3) is not connected with the Mortgagor as an officer, employee, promoter, underwriter, trustee, partner, director or person performing similar functions.

Interest Expense shall mean an amount constituting the interest expense of the Mortgagor as computed pursuant to Accounting Requirements.

Lien shall mean any statutory or common law or non-consensual mortgage, pledge, security interest, encumbrance, lien, right of set off, claim or charge of any kind, including, without limitation, any conditional sale or other title retention transaction, any lease transaction in the nature thereof and any secured transaction under the UCC.

Loan Agreement shall mean any agreement executed by and between the Mortgagor and the Government or any other lender in connection with the execution and delivery of any Notes secured hereby.

Long-Term Debt shall mean any amount included in Total Long-Term Debt pursuant to Accounting Requirements.

Long-Term Lease shall mean a lease having an unexpired term (taking into account terms of renewal at the option of the lessor, whether or not such lease has previously been renewed) of more than 12 months.

Margins shall mean the sum of amounts recorded as operating margins and non-operating margins as computed in accordance with Accounting Requirements.

Maximum Debt Limit, if any, shall mean the amount more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereof.

Mortgage shall mean this Restated Mortgage and Security Agreement, including any amendments or supplements thereto from time to time.

Mortgaged Property shall have the meaning specified as stated in the Habendum to the Granting Clauses.

Mortgagee or Mortgagees shall mean the parties identified in the first paragraph of this instrument as the Mortgagees, as well as any and all other entities that become a Mortgagee pursuant to Article II of this Mortgage by entering into a supplemental mortgage in accordance with Section 2.04 of Article II hereof. The term also includes in all cases the successors and assigns of any Mortgagee.

Net Utility Plant shall mean the amount constituting the total utility plant of the Mortgagor less depreciation computed in accordance with Accounting Requirements.

Note or Notes shall mean one or more of the Government Notes, and any other Notes which may, from time to time, be secured under this Mortgage.

Noteholder or Noteholders shall mean one or more of the holders of Notes secured by this Mortgage; PROVIDED, however, that in the case of any Notes that have been guaranteed or insured as to payment by the Government, as to such Notes, Noteholder or Noteholders shall mean the Government, exclusively, regardless of whether such Notes are in the possession of the

Government.

Original Mortgage means the instrument(s) identified as such in Schedule "A" hereof.

Original Notes shall mean the Notes listed on Schedule "A" hereto as such, such Notes being instruments evidencing outstanding indebtedness of the Mortgagor (i) to the Government (including indebtedness which has been issued by the Mortgagor to a third party and guaranteed or insured as to payment by the Government) and (ii) to each other Mortgagee on the date of this Mortgage.

Outstanding Notes shall mean as of the date of determination, (i) all Notes theretofore issued, executed and delivered to any Mortgagee and (ii) any Notes guaranteed or insured as to payment by the Government, except (a) Notes referred to in clause (i) or (ii) for which the principal and interest have been fully paid and which have been canceled by the Noteholder, and (b) Notes the payment for which has been provided for pursuant to Section 5.03.

Permitted Debt shall have the meaning specified in Section 3.08.

Permitted Encumbrances shall mean:

- (1) as to the property specifically described in Granting Clause First, the restrictions, exceptions, reservations, conditions, limitations, interests and other matters which are set forth or referred to in such descriptions and each of which fits one or more of the clauses of this definition, PROVIDED, such matters do not in the aggregate materially detract from the value of the Mortgaged Property taken as a whole and do not materially impair the use of such property for the purposes for which it is held by the Mortgagor;
- (2) liens for taxes, assessments and other governmental charges which are not delinquent;
- (3) liens for taxes, assessments and other governmental charges already delinquent which are currently being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings; PROVIDED the Mortgagor shall have set aside on its books adequate reserves with respect thereto;
- (4) mechanics', workmen's, repairmen's, materialmen's, warehousemen's and carriers' liens and other similar liens arising in the ordinary course of business for charges which are not delinquent, or which are being contested in good faith and have not proceeded to judgment; PROVIDED the Mortgagor shall have set aside on its books adequate reserves with respect thereto;
- (5) liens in respect of judgments or awards with respect to which the Mortgagor shall in good faith currently be prosecuting an appeal or proceedings for review and with respect to which the Mortgagor shall have secured a stay of execution pending such appeal or proceedings for review; PROVIDED the Mortgagor shall have set aside on its books adequate reserves with respect thereto;
- (6) easements and similar rights granted by the Mortgagor over or in respect of any Mortgaged Property, PROVIDED that in the opinion of the Board or a duly authorized officer of the Mortgagor such grant will not impair the usefulness of such property in the conduct of the Mortgagor's business and will not be prejudicial to the interests of the Mortgagees, and similar rights granted by any predecessor in title of the Mortgagor;
- (7) easements, leases, reservations or other rights of others in any property of the Mortgagor for streets, roads, bridges, pipes, pipe lines, railroads, electric transmission and distribution lines, telegraph and telephone lines, the removal of oil, gas, coal or other minerals and other similar

purposes, flood rights, river control and development rights, sewage and drainage rights, restrictions against pollution and zoning laws and minor defects and irregularities in the record evidence of title, PROVIDED that such easements, leases, reservations, rights, restrictions, laws, defects and irregularities do not materially affect the marketability of title to such property and do not in the aggregate materially impair the use of the Mortgaged Property taken as a whole for the purposes for which it is held by the Mortgagor;

- (8) liens upon lands over which easements or rights of way are acquired by the Mortgagor for any of the purposes specified in Clause (7) of this definition, securing indebtedness neither created, assumed nor guaranteed by the Mortgagor nor on account of which it customarily pays interest, which liens do not materially impair the use of such easements or rights of way for the purposes for which they are held by the Mortgagor;
- (9) leases existing at the date of this instrument affecting property owned by the Mortgagor at said date which have been previously disclosed to the Mortgagees in writing and leases for a term of not more than two years (including any extensions or renewals) affecting property acquired by the Mortgagor after said date;
- (10) terminable or short term leases or permits for occupancy, which leases or permits expressly grant to the Mortgagor the right to terminate them at any time on not more than six months' notice and which occupancy does not interfere with the operation of the business of the Mortgagor;
- (11) any lien or privilege vested in any lessor, licensor or permittor for rent to become due or for other obligations or acts to be performed, the payment of which rent or performance of which other obligations or acts is required under leases, subleases, licenses or permits, so long as the payment of such rent or the performance of such other obligations or acts is not delinquent;
- (12) liens or privileges of any employees of the Mortgagor for salary or wages earned but not yet payable;
- (13) the burdens of any law or governmental regulation or permit requiring the Mortgagor to maintain certain facilities or perform certain acts as a condition of its occupancy of or interference with any public lands or any river or stream or navigable waters;
- (14) any irregularities in or deficiencies of title to any rights-of-way for pipe lines, telephone lines, telegraph lines, power lines or appurtenances thereto, or other improvements thereon, and to any real estate used or to be used primarily for right-of-way purposes, PROVIDED that in the opinion of counsel for the Mortgagor, the Mortgagor shall have obtained from the apparent owner of the lands or estates therein covered by any such right-of-way a sufficient right, by the terms of the instrument granting such right-of-way, to the use thereof for the construction, operation or maintenance of the lines, appurtenances or improvements for which the same are used or are to be used, or PROVIDED that in the opinion of counsel for the Mortgagor, the Mortgagor has power under eminent domain, or similar statutes, to remove such irregularities or deficiencies;
- (15) rights reserved to, or vested in, any municipality or governmental or other public authority to control or regulate any property of the Mortgagor, or to use such property in any manner, which rights do not materially impair the use of such property, for the purposes for which it is held by the Mortgagor;
- (16) any obligations or duties, affecting the property of the Mortgagor, to any municipality or governmental or other public authority with respect to any franchise, grant, license or permit;
- (17) any right which any municipal or governmental authority may have by virtue of any franchise,

license, contract or statute to purchase, or designate a purchaser of or order the sale of, any property of the Mortgagor upon payment of cash or reasonable compensation therefor or to terminate any franchise, license or other rights or to regulate the property and business of the Mortgagor; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that nothing in this clause 17 is intended to waive any claim or rights that the Government may otherwise have under Federal laws;

- (18) as to properties of other operating electric companies acquired after the date of this Mortgage by the Mortgagor as permitted by Section 3.10 hereof, reservations and other matters as to which such properties may be subject as more fully set forth in such Section;
- (19) any lien required by law or governmental regulations as a condition to the transaction of any business or the exercise of any privilege or license, or to enable the Mortgagor to maintain self-insurance or to participate in any fund established to cover any insurance risks or in connection with workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, old age pensions or other social security, or to share in the privileges or benefits required for companies participating in such arrangements; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that nothing in this clause 19 is intended to waive any claim or rights that the Government may otherwise have under Federal laws;
- (20) liens arising out of any defeased mortgage or indenture of the Mortgagor;
- (21) the undivided interest of other owners, and liens on such undivided interests, in property owned jointly with the Mortgagor as well as the rights of such owners to such property pursuant to the ownership contracts;
- (22) any lien or privilege vested in any lessor, licensor or permittor for rent to become due or for other obligations or acts to be performed, the payment of which rent or the performance of which other obligations or acts is required under leases, subleases, licenses or permits, so long as the payment of such rent or the performance of such other obligations or acts is not delinquent;
- (23) purchase money mortgages permitted by Section 3.08;
- (24) the Original Mortgage;
- (25) this Mortgage.

Property Additions shall mean Utility System property as to which the Mortgagor shall provide Title Evidence and which shall be (or, if retired, shall have been) subject to the lien of this Mortgage, which shall be properly chargeable to the Mortgagor's utility plant accounts under Accounting Requirements (including property constructed or acquired to replace retired property credited to such accounts) and which shall be:

- (1) acquired (including acquisition by merger, consolidation, conveyance or transfer) or constructed by the Mortgagor after the date hereof, including property in the process of construction, insofar as not reflected on the books of the Mortgagor with respect to periods on or prior to the date hereof, and
- (2) used or useful in the utility business of the Mortgagor conducted with the properties described in the Granting Clauses of this Mortgage, even though separate from and not physically connected with such properties.

"Property Additions" shall also include:

- (3) easements and rights-of-way that are useful for the conduct of the utility business of the Mortgagor, and
- (4) property located or constructed on, over or under public highways, rivers or other public property if the Mortgagor has the lawful right under permits, licenses or franchises granted by a governmental body having jurisdiction in the premises or by the law of the State in which such property is located to maintain and operate such property for an unlimited, indeterminate or indefinite period or for the period, if any, specified in such permit, license or franchise or law and to remove such property at the expiration of the period covered by such permit, license or franchise or law, or if the terms of such permit, license, franchise or law require any public authority having the right to take over such property to pay fair consideration therefor.

"Property Additions" shall NOT include:

- (a) good will, going concern value, contracts, agreements, franchises, licenses or permits, whether acquired as such, separate and distinct from the property operated in connection therewith, or acquired as an incident thereto, or
- (b) any shares of stock or indebtedness or certificates or evidences of interest therein or other securities, or
- (c) any plant or system or other property in which the Mortgagor shall acquire only a leasehold interest, or any betterments, extensions, improvements or additions (other than movable physical personal property which the Mortgagor has the right to remove), of, upon or to any plant or system or other property in which the Mortgagor shall own only a leasehold interest unless (i) the term of the leasehold interest in the property to which such betterment, extension, improvement or addition relates shall extend for at least 75% of the useful life of such betterment, extension, improvement or addition and (ii) the lessor shall have agreed to give the Mortgagee reasonable notice and opportunity to cure any default by the Mortgagor under such lease and not to disturb any Mortgagee's possession of such leasehold estate in the event any Mortgagee succeeds to the Mortgagor's interest in such lease upon any Mortgagee's exercise of any remedies under this Mortgage so long as there is no default in the performance of the tenant's covenants contained therein, or
- (d) any property of the Mortgagor subject to the Permitted Encumbrance described in clause (23) of the definition thereof.

Prudent Utility Practice shall mean any of the practices, methods and acts which, in the exercise of reasonable judgment, in light of the facts, including, but not limited to, the practices, methods and acts engaged in or approved by a significant portion of the electric utility industry prior thereto, known at the time the decision was made, would have been expected to accomplish the desired result consistent with cost-effectiveness, reliability, safety and expedition. It is recognized that Prudent Utility Practice is not intended to be limited to optimum practice, method or act to the exclusion of all others, but rather is a spectrum of possible practices, methods or acts which could have been expected to accomplish the desired result at the lowest reasonable cost consistent with cost-effectiveness, reliability, safety and expedition.

REA shall mean the Rural Electrification Administration of the United States Department of

Agriculture, the predecessor of RUS.

Regulatory Created Assets shall mean the sum of any amounts properly recordable as unrecovered plant and regulatory study costs or as other regulatory assets, pursuant to Accounting Requirements.

Restricted Rentals shall mean all rentals required to be paid under finance leases and charged to income, exclusive of any amounts paid under any such lease (whether or not designated therein as rental or additional rental) for maintenance or repairs, insurance, taxes, assessments, water rates or similar charges. For the purpose of this definition the term "finance lease" shall mean any lease having a rental term (including the term for which such lease may be renewed or extended at the option of the lessee) in excess of 3 years and covering property having an initial cost in excess of \$250,000 other than aircraft, ships, barges, automobiles, trucks, trailers, rolling stock and vehicles; office, garage and warehouse space; office equipment and computers.

RUS shall mean the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, or if at any time after the execution of this Mortgage RUS is not existing and performing the duties of administering a program of rural electrification as currently assigned to it, then the entity performing such duties at such time.

Security Interest shall mean any assignment, transfer, mortgage, hypothecation or pledge.

Subordinated Indebtedness shall mean secured indebtedness of the Mortgagor, payment of which shall be subordinated to the prior payment of the Notes in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.08 hereof by subordination agreement in form and substance satisfactory to each Mortgagee which approval will not be unreasonably withheld.

Supplemental Mortgage shall mean an instrument of the type described in Section 2.04.

Times Interest Earned Ratio ("TIER") shall mean the ratio determined as follows: for each calendar year: add (i) patronage capital or margins of the Mortgagor and (ii) Interest Expense on Total Long-Term Debt of the Mortgagor and divide the total so obtained by Interest Expense on Total Long-Term Debt of the Mortgagor, provided, however, that in computing Interest Expense on Total Long-Term Debt, there shall be added, to the extent not otherwise included, an amount equal to 33-1/3% of the excess of Restricted Rentals paid by the Mortgagor over 2% of the Mortgagor's Equity.

Title Evidence shall mean with respect to any real property:

- (1) an opinion of counsel to the effect that the Mortgagor has title, whether fairly deducible of record or based upon prescriptive rights (or, as to personal property, based on such evidence as counsel shall determine to be sufficient), as in the opinion of counsel is satisfactory for the use thereof in connection with the operations of the Mortgagor, and counsel in giving such opinion may disregard any irregularity or deficiency in the record evidence of title which, in the opinion of such counsel, can be cured by proceedings within the power of the Mortgagor or does not substantially impair the usefulness of such property for the purpose of the Mortgagor and may base such opinion upon counsel's own investigation or upon affidavits, certificates, abstracts of title, statements or investigations made by persons in whom such counsel has confidence or upon examination of a certificate or guaranty of title or policy of title insurance in which counsel has confidence; or

- (2) a mortgagee's policy of title insurance in the amount of the cost to the Mortgagor of the land included in Property Additions, as such cost is determined by the Mortgagor in accordance with the Accounting Requirements, issued in favor of the Mortgagees by an entity authorized to insure title in the states where the subject property is located, showing the Mortgagor as the owner of the subject property and insuring the lien of this Mortgage; and with respect to any personal property a certificate of the general manager or other duly authorized officer that the Mortgagor lawfully owns and is possessed of such property.

Total Assets shall mean an amount constituting total assets of the Mortgagor as computed pursuant to Accounting Requirements, but excluding any Regulatory Created Assets.

Total Long-Term Debt shall mean the total outstanding long-term debt of the Mortgagor as computed pursuant to Accounting Requirements.

Total Utility Plant shall mean the total of all property properly recorded in the utility plant accounts of the Mortgagor, pursuant to Accounting Requirements.

Uniform Commercial Code or UCC shall mean the UCC of the state referred to in Section 1.04, and if Mortgaged Property is located in a state other than that state, then as to such Mortgaged Property UCC refers to the UCC in effect in the state where such property is located.

Utility System shall mean the Electric System and all of the Mortgagor's interest in community infrastructure located substantially within its electric service territory, namely water and waste systems, solid waste disposal facilities, telecommunications and other electronic communications systems, and natural gas distribution systems.

Section 1.02. General Rules of Construction:

- a. Accounting terms not defined in Section 1.01 are used in this Mortgage in their ordinary sense and any computations relating to such terms shall be computed in accordance with the Accounting Requirements.
- b. Any reference to "directors" or "board of directors" shall be deemed to mean "trustees" or "board of trustees," as the case may be.

Section 1.03. Special Rules of Construction if RUS is a Mortgagee:

During any period that RUS is a Mortgagee, the following additional provisions shall apply:

- a. In the case of any Notes that have been guaranteed or insured as to payment by RUS, as to such Notes RUS shall be considered to be the Noteholder, exclusively, regardless of whether such Notes are in the possession of RUS.
- b. In the case of any prior approval rights conferred upon RUS by Federal statutes, including (without limitation) Section 7 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended, with respect to the sale or disposition of property, rights, or franchises of the Mortgagor, all such statutory rights are reserved except to the extent that they are expressly modified or waived in this Mortgage.

Section 1.04. Governing Law:

This Mortgage shall be construed in and governed by Federal law to the extent applicable, and otherwise by the laws of the state listed on Schedule "A" hereto.

Section 1.05 Notices:

All demands, notices, reports, approvals, designations, or directions required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to be properly given if sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, or delivered by hand, or sent by facsimile transmission, receipt confirmed, addressed to the proper party or parties at the addresses listed on Schedule "A" hereto, and as to any other person, firm, corporation or governmental body or agency having an interest herein by reason of being a Mortgagee, at the last address designated by such person, firm, corporation, governmental body or agency to the Mortgagor and the other Mortgagees. Any such party may from time to time designate to each other a new address to which demands, notices, reports, approvals, designations or directions may be addressed, and from and after any such designation the address designated shall be deemed to be the address of such party in lieu of the address given above.

ARTICLE II

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Section 2.01. Additional Notes:

- (a) Without the prior consent of any Mortgagee or any Noteholder, the Mortgagor may issue Additional Notes to the Government or to another lender or lenders for the purpose of acquiring, procuring or constructing new or replacement Eligible Property Additions and such Additional Notes will thereupon be secured equally and ratably with the Notes if each of the following requirements are satisfied:
- (1) As evidenced by a certificate of an Independent certified public accountant sent to each Mortgagee on or before the first advance of proceeds from such Additional Notes:
 - (i) The Mortgagor shall have achieved for each of the two calendar years immediately preceding the issuance of such Additional Notes, a TIER of not less than 1.25 and a DSC of not less than 1.25;
 - (ii) After taking into account the effect of such Additional Notes on the Total Long Term Debt of the Mortgagor, the ratio of the Mortgagor's Net Utility Plant to its Total Long Term Debt shall be greater than or equal to 1.0 on a pro forma basis;
 - (iii) After taking into account the effect of such Additional Notes on the Total Assets of such Mortgagor, the Mortgagor shall have Equity greater than or equal to 27 percent of Total Assets on a pro forma basis; and
 - (iv) The sum of the aggregate principal amount of such Additional Notes (if any) that are not related to the Electric System if added to the

aggregate outstanding principal amount of all the existing Notes (if any) that are not related to the Electric System will not exceed 30% of the Mortgagor's Equity on a pro forma basis.

- (2) No Event of Default has occurred and is continuing hereunder, or any event which with the giving of notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing.
 - (3) The Eligible Property Additions being constructed, acquired, procured or replaced are part of the Mortgagor's Utility System.
 - (4) The Mortgagor's general manager or other duly authorized officer shall send to each of the Mortgagees a certificate in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A on or before the date of the first advance of proceeds from such Additional Notes.
- (b) For purposes of this section:
- (1) "Eligible Property Additions" shall mean Property Additions acquired or whose construction was completed not more than 5 years prior to the issuance of the Additional Notes and Property Additions acquired or whose construction is started and/or completed not more than 4 years after issuance of the Additional Notes, but shall exclude any Property Additions financed by any other debt secured under the Mortgage at the time additional Notes are issued;
 - (2) Notes are considered to be "issued" on, and the date of "issuance" shall be, the date on which they are executed by the Mortgagor; and
 - (3) For purposes of calculating the pro forma ratios in subparagraphs (a)(1)(ii) and (iii), the values for Total Long Term Debt and Total Assets before debt issuance and the values for Equity and Net Utility Plant shall be the most recently available end-of-month figures preceding the issuance of the Additional Notes, but in no case for a month ending more than 180 days preceding such issuance.

Section 2.02. Refunding or Refinancing Notes:

The Mortgagor shall also have the right without the consent of any Mortgagee or any Noteholder to issue Additional Notes for the purpose of refunding or refinancing any Notes so long as the total amount of outstanding indebtedness evidenced by such Additional Note or Notes is not greater than 105% of the then outstanding principal balance of the Note or Notes being refunded or refinanced. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that the Mortgagor may not exercise its rights under this Section if an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, or any event which with the giving of notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing. On or before the first advance of proceeds from Additional Notes issued under this section, the Mortgagor shall notify each Mortgagee of the refunding or refinancing. Additional Notes issued pursuant to this Section 2.02 will thereupon be secured equally and ratably with the Notes.

Section 2.03. Other Additional Notes:

With the prior written consent of each Mortgagee, the Mortgagor may issue Additional Notes to the Government or any lender or lenders, which Notes will thereupon be secured equally and ratably with Notes without regard to whether any of the requirements of Sections 2.01 or 2.02 are satisfied.

Section 2.04. Additional Lenders Entitled to the Benefit of This Mortgage:

Without the prior consent of any Mortgagee or any Noteholder, each new lender designated as a payee in any Additional Notes issued by the Mortgagor pursuant to Section 2.01 or 2.02 of this Mortgage shall become a Mortgagee hereunder upon the execution and delivery by the Mortgagor and such lender of a supplemental mortgage hereto designating such lender as a Mortgagee hereunder. Such new lender shall be entitled to the benefits of this Mortgage without further act or deed. Each Mortgagee and each person or entity that becomes a lender pursuant to Section 2.01 or 2.02 of this Mortgage shall, upon the request of the Mortgagor to do so, execute and deliver a supplement to this Mortgage in substantially the form set forth in Section 2.05 to evidence the addition of such new lender as an additional Mortgagee entitled to the benefits of this Mortgage. The failure of any existing Mortgagee to enter into such supplemental mortgage shall not deprive the new lender of its rights under this Mortgage; provided that such additional indebtedness otherwise conforms in all respects with the requirements for issuing Additional Notes under this Mortgage.

Section 2.05. Form of Supplemental Mortgage:

- (a) The form of supplemental mortgage referred to in Section 2.04 is attached to this Mortgage as Exhibit B and hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth in full at this point.
- (b) In the event that the Mortgagor subsequently issues Additional Notes pursuant to Sections 2.01 or 2.02 to any existing Mortgagee and that Mortgagee desires further assurance that such Additional Notes will be secured by the lien of the Mortgage, an instrument substantially in the form of the supplemental mortgage attached as Exhibit B may be used.
- (c) In the event that the Mortgagor issues Additional Notes pursuant to Section 2.03 to either an existing Mortgagee or a new lender, in either case with the prior written consent of each Mortgagee, then an instrument substantially in the form of the supplemental mortgage attached as Exhibit B may also be used.

ARTICLE III

PARTICULAR COVENANTS OF THE MORTGAGOR

Section 3.01. Payment of Debt Service on Notes:

The Mortgagor will duly and punctually pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the Notes in accordance with the terms of the Notes, the Loan Agreements, this Mortgage and any Supplemental Mortgage authorizing such Notes.

Section 3.02. Warranty of Title:

- (a) At the time of the execution and delivery of this instrument, the Mortgagor has good and marketable title in fee simple to the real property specifically described in Granting Clause First as owned in fee and good and marketable title to the interests in real property specifically described in Granting Clause First, subject to no mortgage, lien, charge or encumbrance except as stated therein, and has full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey, assign, transfer, encumber, mortgage, pledge, set over and confirm said real property and interests in real property in the manner and form aforesaid.
- (b) At the time of the execution and delivery of this instrument, the Mortgagor lawfully owns and is possessed of the personal property specifically described in Granting Clauses First through Seventh, subject to no mortgage, lien, charge or encumbrance except as stated therein, and has full power and lawful authority to mortgage, assign, transfer, deliver, pledge and grant a continuing security interest in said property and, including any proceeds thereof, in the manner and form aforesaid.
- (c) The Mortgagor hereby does and will forever warrant and defend the title to the property specifically described in Granting Clause First against the claims and demands of all persons whomsoever, except Permitted Encumbrances.

Section 3.03. After-Acquired Property; Further Assurances; Recording:

- (a) All property of every kind, other than Excepted Property, acquired by the Mortgagor after the date hereof, shall, immediately upon the acquisition thereof by the Mortgagor, and without any further mortgage, conveyance or assignment, become subject to the lien of this Mortgage; SUBJECT, HOWEVER, to Permitted Encumbrances and the exceptions, if any, to which all of the Mortgagees consent. Nevertheless, the Mortgagor will do, execute, acknowledge and deliver all and every such further acts, conveyances, mortgages, financing statements and assurances as any Mortgagee shall require for accomplishing the purposes of this Mortgage, including, but not limited to, at the request of any Mortgagee, taking such actions and executing and delivering such documents as are necessary under the Uniform Commercial Code or other applicable law to perfect or establish the Mortgagees' first priority security interests in any Mortgaged Property to the extent that such perfection or priority cannot be accomplished by the filing of a financing statement.
- (b) The Mortgagor will cause this Mortgage and all Supplemental Mortgages and other instruments of further assurance, including all financing statements covering security interests in personal property, to be promptly recorded, registered and filed, and will execute and file such financing statements and cause to be issued and filed such continuation statements, all in such manner and in such places as may be required by law fully to preserve and protect the rights of all of the Mortgagees and Noteholders hereunder to all property comprising the Mortgaged Property. The Mortgagor will furnish to each Mortgagee:
 - (1) promptly after the execution and delivery of this instrument and of each Supplemental Mortgage or other instrument of further assurance, an Opinion of Counsel stating that, in the opinion of such Counsel, this instrument and all such Supplemental Mortgages and other instruments of further assurance have been properly recorded, registered and filed to the extent necessary to make effective the lien intended to be created by this Mortgage, and reciting the details of such action or referring to prior Opinions of Counsel in which such details are given, and stating that all financing statements and continuation statements have been executed and filed that are necessary fully to

preserve and protect the rights of all of the Mortgagees and Noteholders hereunder, or stating that, in the opinion of such Counsel, no such action is necessary to make the lien effective; and

- (2) during the month of January in each year following the first anniversary of the date of this Mortgage, an Opinion of Counsel, dated on or about the date of delivery, either stating that, in the opinion of such Counsel, such action has been taken with respect to the recording, registering, filing, re-recording, re-registering and re-filing of this instrument and of all Supplemental Mortgages, financing statements, continuation statements or other instruments of further assurances as is necessary to maintain the lien of this Mortgage (including the lien on any property acquired by the Mortgagor after the execution and delivery of this instrument and owned by the Mortgagor at the end of preceding calendar year) and reciting the details of such action or referring to prior Opinions of Counsel in which such details are given, and stating that all financing statements and continuation statements have been executed and filed that are necessary to fully preserve and protect the rights of all of the Mortgagees and Noteholders hereunder, or stating that, in the opinion of such Counsel, no such action is necessary to maintain such lien.

Section 3.04. Environmental Requirements and Indemnity:

- (a) The Mortgagor shall, with respect to all facilities which may be part of the Mortgaged Property, comply with all Environmental Laws.
- (b) The Mortgagor shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless each Mortgagee, its successors and assigns, from and against any and all liabilities, losses, damages, costs, expenses (including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses), causes of actions, administrative proceedings, suits, claims, demands, or judgments of any nature arising out of or in connection with any matter related to the Mortgage Property and any Environmental Law, including but not limited to:
 - (1) the past, present, or future presence of any hazardous substance, contaminant, pollutant, or hazardous waste on or related to the Mortgaged Property;
 - (2) any failure at any time by the undersigned to comply with the terms of any order related to the Mortgaged Property and issued by any Federal, state, or municipal department or agency (other than RUS) exercising its authority to enforce any Environmental Law; and
 - (3) any lien or claim imposed under any Environmental Law related to clause (1).
- (c) Within 10 (ten) business days after receiving knowledge of any liability, losses, damages, costs, expenses (including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses), cause of action, administrative proceeding, suit, claim, demand, judgment, lien, reportable event including but not limited to the release of a hazardous substance, or potential or actual violation or non-compliance arising out of or in connection with the Mortgaged Property and any Environmental Law, the Mortgagor shall provide each Mortgagee with written notice of such matter. With respect to any matter upon which it has provided such notice, the Mortgagor shall immediately take any and all appropriate actions to remedy, cure, defend, or otherwise affirmatively respond to the matter.

Section 3.05. Payment of Taxes:

The Mortgagor will pay or cause to be paid as they become due and payable all taxes, assessments and other governmental charges lawfully levied or assessed or imposed upon the Mortgaged Property or any part thereof or upon any income therefrom, and also (to the extent that such payment will not be contrary to any applicable laws) all taxes, assessments and other governmental charges lawfully levied, assessed or imposed upon the lien or interest of the Noteholders or of the Mortgagees in the Mortgaged Property, so that (to the extent aforesaid) the lien of this Mortgage shall at all times be wholly preserved at the cost of the Mortgagor and without expense to the Mortgagees or the Noteholders; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that the Mortgagor shall not be required to pay and discharge or cause to be paid and discharged any such tax, assessment or governmental charge to the extent that the amount, applicability or validity thereof shall currently be contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings and the Mortgagor shall have established and shall maintain adequate reserves on its books for the payment of the same.

Section 3.06. Authority to Execute and Deliver Notes, Loan Agreements and Mortgage; All Action Taken; Enforceable Obligations:

The Mortgagor is authorized under its articles of incorporation and bylaws (or code of regulations) and all applicable laws and by corporate action to execute and deliver the Notes, any Additional Notes, the Loan Agreements and this Mortgage. The Notes, the Loan Agreements and this Mortgage are, and any Additional Notes and Loan Agreements when executed and delivered will be, the valid and enforceable obligations of the Mortgagor in accordance with their respective terms.

Section 3.07. Restrictions on Further Encumbrances on Property:

Except to secure Additional Notes, the Mortgagor will not, without the prior written consent of each Mortgagee, create or incur or suffer or permit to be created or incurred or to exist any Lien, charge, assignment, pledge or mortgage on any of the Mortgaged Property inferior to, prior to, or on a parity with the Lien of this Mortgage except for the Permitted Encumbrances. Subject to the provisions of Section 3.08, or unless approved by each of the Mortgagees, the Mortgagor will purchase all materials, equipment and replacements to be incorporated in or used in connection with the Mortgaged Property outright and not subject to any conditional sales agreement, chattel mortgage, bailment, lease or other agreement reserving to the seller any right, title or Lien.

Section 3.08. Restrictions On Additional Permitted Debt:

The Mortgagor shall not incur, assume, guarantee or otherwise become liable in respect of any debt for borrowed money and Restricted Rentals (including Subordinated Debt) other than the following: ("Permitted Debt")

- (1) Additional Notes issued in compliance with Article II hereof;
- (2) Purchase money indebtedness in non-Utility System property, in an amount not exceeding 10% of Net Utility Plant;
- (3) Restricted Rentals in an amount not to exceed 5% of Equity during any 12 consecutive calendar month period;
- (4) Unsecured lease obligations incurred in the ordinary course of business except Restricted Rentals;

- (5) Unsecured indebtedness for borrowed money;
- (6) Debt represented by dividends declared but not paid; and
- (7) Subordinated Indebtedness approved by each Mortgagee.

PROVIDED, However, that the Mortgagor may incur Permitted Debt without the consent of the Mortgagee only so long as there exists no Event of Default hereunder and there has been no continuing occurrence which with the passage of time and giving of notice could become an Event of Default hereunder.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, by executing this Mortgage any consent of RUS that the Mortgagor would otherwise be required to obtain under this Section is hereby deemed to be given or waived by RUS by operation of law to the extent, but only to the extent, that to impose such a requirement of RUS consent would clearly violate existing Federal laws or government regulations.

Section 3.09. Preservation of Corporate Existence and Franchises:

The Mortgagor will, so long as any Outstanding Notes exist, take or cause to be taken all such action as from time to time may be necessary to preserve its corporate existence and to preserve and renew all franchises, rights of way, easements, permits, and licenses now or hereafter to be granted or upon it conferred the loss of which would have a material adverse affect on the Mortgagor's financial condition or business. The Mortgagor will comply with all laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, decrees and other legal requirements applicable to it or its property the violation of which could have a material adverse affect on the Mortgagor's financial condition or business.

Section 3.10. Limitations on Consolidations and Mergers:

The Mortgagor shall not, without the prior written approval of each Mortgagee, consolidate or merge with any other corporation or convey or transfer the Mortgaged Property substantially as an entirety unless:

- (1) such consolidation, merger, conveyance or transfer shall be on such terms as shall fully preserve the lien and security hereof and the rights and powers of the Mortgagees hereunder;
- (2) the entity formed by such consolidation or with which the Mortgagor is merged or the corporation which acquires by conveyance or transfer the Mortgaged Property substantially as an entirety shall execute and deliver to the Mortgagees a mortgage supplemental hereto in recordable form and containing an assumption by such successor entity of the due and punctual payment of the principal of and interest on all of the Outstanding Notes and the performance and observance of every covenant and condition of this Mortgage;
- (3) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default hereunder shall have occurred and be continuing;
- (4) the Mortgagor shall have delivered to the Mortgagees a certificate of its general manager or other officer, in form and substance satisfactory to each of the Mortgagees, which shall state that such consolidation, merger, conveyance or transfer and such supplemental mortgage comply with this subsection and that all conditions precedent herein provided for relating to such transaction have been complied with;