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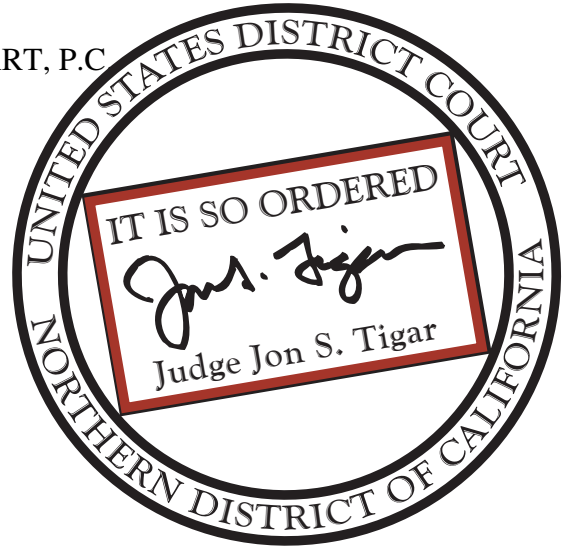
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15 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
16 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

17 ZACHARY BONGIOVANNI,

18 Plaintiff,

19 vs.

20 NRG ENERGY, INC.; and DOES 1 through 10,  
21 inclusive,

22 Defendant.

Case No. 3:16-CV-00686-JST

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Action Filed: December 21, 2015

1       1.       PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

2           Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of  
3 confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure  
4 and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.  
5 Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated  
6 Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on  
7 all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure  
8 and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment  
9 under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3,  
10 below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information  
11 under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards  
12 that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

13       2.       DEFINITIONS

14           2.1       Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of  
15 information or items under this Order.

16           2.2       “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is  
17 generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of  
18 Civil Procedure 26(c).

19           2.3       Counsel (without qualifier): Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as  
20 well as their support staff).

21           2.4       Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it  
22 produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

23           2.5       Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the  
24 medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things,  
25 testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or  
26 responses to discovery in this matter.

27           2.6       Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to  
28 the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a

1 consultant in this action.

2 2.7 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. House  
3 Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

4 2.8 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal  
5 entity not named as a Party to this action.

6 2.9 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this  
7 action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and have appeared in this action  
8 on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that party.

9 2.10 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees,  
10 consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

11 2.11 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery  
12 Material in this action.

13 2.12 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services  
14 (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing,  
15 storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

16 2.13 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as  
17 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

18 2.14 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a  
19 Producing Party.

20 3. SCOPE

21 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material  
22 (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material;  
23 (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony,  
24 conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

25 However, the protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following  
26 information: (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a  
27 Receiving Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a  
28 result of publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part of the public

1 record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party prior to  
2 the disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source who obtained  
3 the information lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any  
4 use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

5 4. DURATION

6 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by this  
7 Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order  
8 otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims  
9 and defenses in this action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the  
10 completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this action,  
11 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to  
12 applicable law.

13 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

14 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party  
15 or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to  
16 limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The  
17 Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or  
18 oral or written communications that qualify – so that other portions of the material, documents,  
19 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within  
20 the ambit of this Order.

21 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are  
22 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to  
23 unnecessarily encumber or retard the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses  
24 and burdens on other parties) expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

25 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for  
26 protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other  
27 Parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

28

1           5.2     Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order  
2 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,  
3 Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so  
4 designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

5           Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

6           (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but  
7 excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the Producing Party  
8 affix the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page that contains protected material. If only a  
9 portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must  
10 clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins). A  
11 Party or Non-Party that makes original documents or materials available for inspection need not  
12 designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated which material it would  
13 like copied and produced. During the inspection and before the designation, all of the material  
14 made available for inspection shall be deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has  
15 identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which  
16 documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing  
17 the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL” legend to each  
18 page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page  
19 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s)  
20 (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

21           (b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings, that the  
22 Designating Party identify on the record, before the close of the deposition, hearing, or other  
23 proceeding, all protected testimony.

24           (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other  
25 tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container  
26 or containers in which the information or item is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a  
27 portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the extent  
28 practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

1           5.3     Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to  
2 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's  
3 right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a  
4 designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated  
5 in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

6           6.     CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

7           6.1     Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of  
8 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party's confidentiality  
9 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic  
10 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to  
11 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the  
12 original designation is disclosed.

13          6.2     Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution  
14 process by providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis  
15 for each challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written  
16 notice must recite that the challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with this  
17 specific paragraph of the Protective Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in  
18 good faith and must begin the process by conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue; other  
19 forms of communication are not sufficient) within 14 days of the date of service of notice. In  
20 conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality  
21 designation was not proper and must give the Designating Party an opportunity to review the  
22 designated material, to reconsider the circumstances, and, if no change in designation is offered, to  
23 explain the basis for the chosen designation. A Challenging Party may proceed to the next stage of  
24 the challenge process only if it has engaged in this meet and confer process first or establishes that  
25 the Designating Party is unwilling to participate in the meet and confer process in a timely manner.

26          6.3     Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court  
27 intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under  
28 Civil Local Rule 7 (and in compliance with Civil Local Rule 79-5, if applicable) within 21 days of

1 the initial notice of challenge or within 14 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and confer  
2 process will not resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each such motion must be  
3 accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet  
4 and confer requirements imposed in the preceding paragraph. Failure by the Designating Party to  
5 make such a motion including the required declaration within 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable)  
6 shall automatically waive the confidentiality designation for each challenged designation. In  
7 addition, the Challenging Party may file a motion challenging a confidentiality designation at any  
8 time if there is good cause for doing so, including a challenge to the designation of a deposition  
9 transcript or any portions thereof. Any motion brought pursuant to this provision must be  
10 accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet  
11 and confer requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph.

12 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating  
13 Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose  
14 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to  
15 sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to  
16 file a motion to retain confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the  
17 material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's  
18 designation until the court rules on the challenge.

19 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

20 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or  
21 produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,  
22 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to  
23 the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has  
24 been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL  
25 DISPOSITION).

26 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and in  
27 a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order.  
28

1           7.2     Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered  
2 by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any  
3 information or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

4           (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as  
5 employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the  
6 information for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be  
7 Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

8           (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving  
9 Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the  
10 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

11           (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is  
12 reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and  
13 Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

14           (d) the court and its personnel;

15           (e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors,  
16 and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who  
17 have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

18           (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably  
19 necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A),  
20 unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed  
21 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material must be separately  
22 bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this  
23 Stipulated Protective Order.

24           (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or  
25 other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

26 8.     PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER  
27     LITIGATION

28     If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels



1 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party  
2 must:

3 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a  
4 copy of the subpoena or court order;

5 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in  
6 the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to  
7 this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order;  
8 and

9 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the  
10 Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

11 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena  
12 or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL”  
13 before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has  
14 obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and  
15 expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material – and nothing in these  
16 provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to  
17 disobey a lawful directive from another court.

18 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS  
19 LITIGATION

20 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in  
21 this action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in  
22 connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order.  
23 Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking  
24 additional protections.

25 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-  
26 Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the  
27 Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s confidential information, then the Party shall:  
28

1 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or  
2 all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

3 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order  
4 in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the  
5 information requested; and

6 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party.

7 (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court within 14  
8 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the  
9 Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely  
10 seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or  
11 control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination  
12 by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense  
13 of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

14 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

15 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected  
16 Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective  
17 Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the  
18 unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected  
19 Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the  
20 terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and  
21 Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

22 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED  
23 MATERIAL

24 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently  
25 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the  
26 Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This  
27 provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order  
28 that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence

1 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a  
2 communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection,  
3 the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted to the  
4 court.

5 12. MISCELLANEOUS

6 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to  
7 seek its modification by the court in the future.

8 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective  
9 Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any  
10 information or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no  
11 Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by  
12 this Protective Order.

13 12.3 Filing Protected Material. Without written permission from the Designating Party  
14 or a court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party may not file in the  
15 public record in this action any Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any  
16 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may only be filed  
17 under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at  
18 issue. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5, a sealing order will issue only upon a request  
19 establishing that the Protected Material at issue is privileged, protectable as a trade secret, or  
20 otherwise entitled to protection under the law. If a Receiving Party's request to file Protected  
21 Material under seal pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5(d) is denied by the court, then the Receiving  
22 Party may file the information in the public record pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5(e) unless  
23 otherwise instructed by the court.

24 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

25 Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, each  
26 Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material.  
27 As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,  
28 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether

1 the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written  
2 certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party)  
3 by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected  
4 Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained  
5 any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of  
6 the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival  
7 copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda,  
8 correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant  
9 and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival  
10 copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set  
11 forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

12  
13 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

14  
15 DATED: June 13, 2016

OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH, SMOAK &  
STEWART, P.C.

16  
17  
18 By: /s/ Zachary W. Shine  
THOMAS M. MCINERNEY  
ZACHARY W. SHINE

19  
20 Attorneys for Defendant  
NRG ENERGY, INC.

21  
22 DATED: June 13, 2016

MINNIS & SMALLETS LLP

23  
24 By: /s/ Aaron P. Minnis  
Aaron P. Minnis

25 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
ZACHARY BONGIOVANNI

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SIGNATURE ATTESTATION

Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), I attest that concurrence in the filing of this document has been obtained from the other signatories.

DATED: June 13, 2016

By:  /s/ Zachary W. Shine  
Zachary W. Shine

**PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

DATED:  June 14, 2016

  
 Hon Jon S. Tigar  
United States District/Magistrate Judge

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