

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY ENERGY COMPANY, et al.

Petitioners,

v.

BIRCHTECH CORP.,

Patent Owner.

Case No. IPR2025-00281
U.S. Patent No. 10,596,517

**JOINT REQUEST TO TREAT FINAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT OF
PATENT OWNER AND WEC ENERGY GROUP, INC. AS BUSINESS
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

On October 9, 2025, Petitioner WEC Energy Group, Inc. (“WEC”) and Patent Owner Birchtech Corp., formerly known as Midwest Energy Emissions Corp. (“Patent Owner” or “ME2C”) (collectively, the “Settling Parties”) jointly moved to terminate the above-captioned proceeding with respect to WEC in view of the Settling Parties’ settlement.

The Settling Parties concurrently file this joint request to treat the Settling Parties’ executed written agreement (“WEC Agreement”) as business confidential information with the agreement being filed concurrently herewith as “Available Only to the Board” to preserve the confidentiality of the agreement.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 317(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c), the Settling Parties jointly request that the Board treat as business confidential information the executed WEC Agreement (Exhibit 1139). The WEC Agreement describes the highly confidential terms of the Settling Parties’ settlement, which constitutes confidential commercial information under the Board’s rules. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.54; Patent Trial and Appeal Board Consolidated Trial Practice Guide, November 2019, 19.

35 U.S.C. § 317(b) provides that:

At the request of a party to the proceeding, the agreement or understanding shall be treated as business confidential information, shall be kept separate from the file of the involved patents, and shall be made available only to

Federal Government agencies on written request, or to any person on a showing of good cause.

Likewise, 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c) provides that:

A party to a settlement may request that the settlement be treated as business confidential information and be kept separate from the files of an involved patent or application. The request must be filed with the settlement. If a timely request is filed, the settlement shall only be available:

- (1) To a Government agency on written request to the Board; or*
- (2) To any other person upon written request to the Board to make the settlement agreement available, along with the fee specified in § 42.15(d) and on a showing of good cause.*

The present request, which is being filed contemporaneously with the final WEC Agreement, is timely and in accordance with the foregoing authority. Therefore, the Settling Parties request that the WEC Agreement (Exhibit 1139) be (i) treated as business confidential information; (ii) maintained separate from the publicly available file of the involved patent; and (iii) made available only to Federal Government agencies on written request, or to persons showing good cause on written request, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 317(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 42.74(c).

Moreover, the terms of the final settlement agreements require the Settling Parties to treat the final settlement agreements as confidential information and limit

the Settling Parties' ability to share the final settlement agreements or disclose their contents to third parties.

The Settling Parties also respectfully request that the Board inform the Settling Parties if anyone seeks production of the final settlement agreements and afford the Settling Parties an opportunity to address whether good cause supports such request.

Respectfully submitted the 9th day of October, 2025.

/Michael T. Piery/

Michael T. Piery (Reg. No. 71915)

QUARLES & BRADY LLP

411 E Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 2400

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Tel.: (414) 277-5000

E-mail: michael.piery@quarles.com

Lauren C. Bolcar (Reg. No. 68994)

QUARLES & BRADY LLP

2020 K Street NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20006

Tel.: (202) 372-9600

E-mail: lauren.bolcar@quarles.com

Counsel for WEC Energy Group

/Hamad M. Hamad/

Hamad M. Hamad (Reg. No. 64641)
CALDWELL, CASSADY & CURRY P.C.
2121 N. Pearl St., Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75201
Tel.: (214) 888-4848
E-mail: hhamad@caldwellcc.com

Counsel for Patent Owner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 42.6(e), the undersigned certifies that on October 9, 2025 a true copy of the foregoing was served upon the below listed counsel by electronic mail:

Hamad M. Hamad - hhamad@caldwellcc.com
Justin T. Nemunaitis - jnemunaitis@caldwellcc.com
Richard Cochrane - rcochrane@caldwellcc.com
midwest@caldwellcc.com

Dated: October 9, 2025.

/Michael T. Piery/