International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc.
360 Madison Avenue, 16th Floor
New York, New York 10017
U.S.A.

Our ref: 21650/16511198

Ladies and Gentlemen:

ISDA 2015 Universal Resolution Stay Protocol

We have acted as your counsel as to matters of English law for purpose of this opinion in connection with the ISDA 2015 Universal Resolution Stay Protocol (the "Protocol") that you (ISDA) have published. Capitalised terms used in this letter without definition have the meanings given to those terms in the Protocol.

The purpose of the Protocol is to enable adhering parties to supplement the terms of Protocol Covered Agreements. As used herein, a "Protocol Covered ISDA Agreement" is a Protocol Covered Agreement that is a 1992 ISDA Master Agreement, 2002 ISDA Master Agreement, 1994 ISDA Credit Support Annex governed by New York law, 1995 ISDA Credit Support Deed governed by English law, or a 1995 ISDA Credit Support Annex governed by English law.

This opinion relates only to matters governed by English law and is confined to such matters.

1. The Protocol

The Protocol provides an agreed mechanism whereby parties may amend certain existing agreements to incorporate the provisions set out in the Attachment to the Protocol.

Through the execution, followed by online delivery to ISDA, of an Initial Adherence Letter on or before the Cut-off Date, a party may adhere to the Protocol. The Initial Adherence Letter must be substantially in the form attached as an exhibit to the Protocol, and it appoints ISDA as the relevant Protocol participant's agent for the limited purposes of the Protocol. A Protocol participant may not specify additional provisions, conditions or limitations in its Initial Adherence Letter. ISDA, as agent, may determine in good faith that a purported adherence that is not in compliance with the Protocol is void.

This is a legal communication, not a financial communication. Neither this nor any other communication from this firm is intended to be, or should be construed as, an invitation or inducement (direct or indirect) to any person to engage in investment activity.

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In order to adhere to the Protocol, a Protocol participant is required to access the "Protocol Management" section of the ISDA website to enter information online that is required to generate its form of Initial Adherence Letter and to submit payment of any applicable fee. Each Protocol participant will print, sign and upload the signed Initial Adherence Letter as a PDF attachment into the Protocol Management system. Once ISDA has reviewed and accepted the signed Initial Adherence Letter, it will provide e-mail confirmation to the Protocol participant of the Protocol participant's adherence to the Protocol. ISDA intends to display electronically on its website a record of each Initial Adherence Letter it accepts. Adherence to the Protocol is open until the Cut-off Date. ISDA will have the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to designate the Cut-off Date.

A party's adherence, once effective, is expressed in paragraph 1(c) of the Protocol to be irrevocable except that, by subsequently delivering a qualifying notice during the Annual Revocation Period, a party may designate the next Annual Revocation Date as the last date on which any other party may adhere to the Protocol in respect of any Protocol Covered Agreement between them.

2. Analysis

Where the parties have entered into a Protocol Covered ISDA Agreement prior to the later of the two parties adhering to the Protocol, the Protocol, notwithstanding that it is a multilateral agreement, is sufficiently clear and certain in its operation as between any two Protocol participants that it operates as a mutually agreed modification to their existing contractual arrangements.1

To the extent English law on contractual formation is relevant, the procedure for entry into the Protocol contemplated by the Protocol is clearly founded, in our view, on the traditional doctrine of offer and acceptance. The delivery by a party of an Initial Adherence Letter to ISDA is both an effective offer to each market participant who has yet to adhere to the Protocol and an effective acceptance of the offer made by each other market participant (if any) who has already adhered at that time, in each case on the terms and subject to the conditions of the Protocol. The fact that this occurs in the context of a reasonably elaborate multilateral mechanism does not, in our view, affect the validity of the offer or acceptance as between each pair of Protocol participants.

With respect to "deemed" Protocol Covered ISDA Agreements created in confirmations we believe the Protocol is best construed as creating a standing agreement to amend such deemed master agreements, which if not modified by subsequent agreement or conduct should be effective to amend those deemed agreements, subject to the discussion in paragraph 8 of "Assumptions and Qualifications".

In the case of ISDA 2002 and 1992 edition master agreements entered into on or prior to the Implementation Date ("Master Agreements"), helpful support for the mechanism

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1 This modification might in our view be construed as an amendment to the existing contractual arrangements of each pair of Protocol participants or as a collateral contract (between those parties amongst others) operating alongside them. We do not consider that anything turns on this distinction in this context and in the remainder of this opinion we assume that it would be construed as an amendment.
contemplated by the Protocol for entry into the Protocol is provided by the Master Agreements themselves, since they expressly contemplate that they may be amended and modified from time to time. Their modular architecture provides an open-ended framework to facilitate the ongoing trading relationship of the parties.

Section 9(b) of the Master Agreements provides that an amendment to, or modification of, the agreement may be made if it is in writing and executed by each of the parties and Section 9(e) contemplates amendments and modifications that are executed and delivered in counterparts. We are of the view that the signature by each of the two Protocol participants of their respective Initial Adherence Letters and the uploading of them as PDF attachments into the Protocol Management System satisfies the requirements of Section 9(b) and constitutes the execution and delivery of counterparts as contemplated in Section 9(e). We are further of the view that to the extent an English court were to consider that, contrary to our view, the mechanism for entry into the Protocol does not otherwise comply with Section 9(b), the Protocol would be interpreted by an English court as effecting an implicit amendment to, or waiver of, Section 9(b) to allow this modification of the relevant Master Agreement in this manner.

3. Opinion

On the basis of the foregoing, having regard to such legal considerations as we deem relevant and subject to the analysis, assumptions and qualifications set out herein, we are of the opinion that, under English law, the delivery to ISDA of an Initial Adherence Letter before the Cut-off Date (and before any applicable Annual Revocation Date) by each of two parties in each case on and subject to the terms set out in the Protocol, (i) will be sufficient to effect an amendment of each Protocol Covered ISDA Agreement entered into between them (or, in the case of a Protocol Covered ISDA Agreement that is a Covered Credit Enhancement, executed and provided by one of them in favour of the other) on or prior to the Implementation Date, and (ii) should be sufficient to effect an amendment of "deemed" Protocol Covered ISDA Agreements created in confirmations executed after the Implementation Date, as discussed in paragraph 8 under "Assumptions and Qualifications" below, in each case in accordance with the terms of the Attachment.

4. Assumptions and qualifications

This opinion is given subject to the following assumptions and qualifications:

1. each relevant Protocol Covered ISDA Agreement is, or contains provisions regarding amendments and modifications identical to those found in, a Master Agreement;

2. under each applicable law, each Adhering Party is and was at all relevant times able lawfully to enter into each relevant Protocol Covered ISDA Agreement, its entry into each relevant Protocol Covered ISDA Agreement was duly authorised and each relevant Protocol Covered ISDA Agreement constitutes the legal, valid and binding obligations of each relevant Adhering Party;

3. under each applicable law, each Adhering Party is able lawfully to adhere to the Protocol on the terms set out in the Protocol, its adherence to the Protocol is duly authorised and each Initial Adherence Letter has been properly completed, executed
and delivered to ISDA in accordance with the terms of the Protocol and substantially in the form attached as an exhibit to the Protocol;

(4) the Protocol reflects correctly the commercial intentions of each Adhering Party and there is no fact, matter or circumstance relating to any Adhering Party or pair of Adhering Parties (such as misrepresentation, fraud, undue influence, circumstances giving rise to an estoppel or a separate agreement between them inconsistent with the Protocol) which would or might affect this opinion;

(5) as between any two Adhering Parties, the later of them to adhere does so (and any "deemed" ISDA Master Agreement is entered into) prior to the formal commencement of insolvency or reorganisation proceedings against either of them and this opinion is not otherwise affected by the insolvency laws applicable to any Adhering Party;

(6) insofar as the Protocol relates to a regulated activity in the United Kingdom, any Adhering Party that is carrying on, or purporting to carry on, that regulated activity is an authorised person permitted to carry on that regulated activity or an exempt person in respect of that regulated activity under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and no such activity has been entered into in consequence of the communication made in breach of s21 of that Act;

(7) insofar as performance in any jurisdiction outside England is contemplated, such performance will not be illegal or invalid by virtue of the laws of that jurisdiction;

(8) the Protocol’s mechanism for creating or amending agreements does not conflict with the requirements for contract formation under any laws (other than those of England) that govern the rights and duties of the parties under any such agreements or amendments;

(9) the Protocol, which allows parties to opt in to aspects of certain resolution regimes and to override certain contractual rights, applies prospectively through clause (b) of the definition of Covered Agreements to ISDA Master Agreements deemed to have been entered into after the Implementation Date by a confirmation "deeming process". Unless the confirmation that effects the deeming process appropriately amends Section 9(a), the "Entire Agreement" provision, of the relevant standard ISDA Master Agreement, that provision, which declares the ISDA Master Agreement to be the entire agreement between the parties, could threaten the effectiveness of the Protocol with respect to such post-Implementation Date "deemed" ISDA Master Agreements.

English courts tend to enforce provisions like the Entire Agreement provisions (which differ slightly in the 1992 and 2002 versions of the ISDA Master Agreements), though there are a number of potential exceptions. See, e.g., John v Price Waterhouse [2002] EWCA Civ 899 (extrinsic evidence as an aid to construction); AXA Sun Life Services Plc v Campbell Martin Ltd [2011] EWCA Civ 133 (terms implied into a contract where necessary for 'business efficacy' and where such terms are 'intrinsic' to the agreement); Hawksford Trustees Jersey Ltd v Stella Global UK Ltd [2012] EWCA Civ 55 (rectification due to common mistake). We think that a court applying English law should hold that an Entire Agreement
provision -- incorporated into a confirmation as a matter of form, without alteration or other evidence of specific negotiation, the effect of which would nullify *ab initio* an express written term of the publicly adhered to and recorded Protocol -- should not preclude effectiveness of the Protocol amendments of the deemed master agreements during the period before an actual ISDA Master Agreement is executed, absent other extrinsic evidence that would controvert a mutual intent to amend the deemed ISDA Master Agreements. However, again noting the judicial bias towards enforcement of provisions like the Entire Agreement provisions, our conclusion is not certain.

The effect of an Annual Revocation Date on future (i.e., post-Annual Revocation Date) deemed masters between parties that had adhered before the applicable Annual Revocation Date may be variously interpreted. Under one reading, which finds its most direct textual support in the clause "regardless of the date ..." in paragraph 1(c)(i), Protocol amendments continue to take effect after the applicable Annual Revocation Date. The contrary reading, however, can also be reconciled to the text as a whole and arguably is in greater accord with the premise of the Protocol as a mechanism for obviating the need for separate, numerous bilateral actions with every other Adhering Party. Parties revoking their adherence, as well as those who will continue to transact with them via long-form confirmations, may wish to expressly address the consequences of revocation in their confirmations or in separate, bilateral agreements; and

(10) we express no opinion as to the enforceability of the amendments effected by the Protocol, the effectiveness of paragraph 2(d) of the Protocol to cause any particular agreement to meet the definition of Protocol Covered Agreement or, except as set forth in our opinion stated in section 3 above, the enforceability of any provisions of the Protocol.

This opinion is rendered solely to ISDA for distribution to its members and each other party adhering to Protocol. This opinion may not be distributed to any other person without our prior written consent, except that we consent to ISDA including a copy of this opinion on the "ISDA 2015 Universal Stay Protocol" section of its website for information purposes only. This opinion may also be shown by an ISDA member or another party adhering to the Protocol to a competent regulatory authority for such person for information purposes only, on the basis that we assume no responsibility to such authority or any other person as a result or otherwise.

Yours faithfully

Mayer Brown International LLP