Republic Act No. 10531

May 7, 2013 (http://www.gov.ph/2013/05/07/republic-act-no-10531/

S. No. 3389 H. No. 6214

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Fifteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand twelve.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10531]

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE <u>PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 269</u> (http://www.gov.ph/1973/08/06/presidential-decree-no-269/). AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION DECREE"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

CHAPTER I

POLICY AND DEFINITIONS

- SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "National Electrification Administration Reform Act of 2013".
- SEC. 2. Section 2 of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:
- "SEC. 2. Declaration of National Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:
 - $^{\prime\prime}$ (a) promote the sustainable development in the rural areas through rural electrification;
 - "(b) empower and strengthen the National Electrification Administration (NEA) to pursue the electrification program and bring electricity, through the electric cooperatives as its implementing arm, to the countryside even in missionary or economically unviable areas;
 - "(c) empower and enable electric cooperatives to cope with the changes brought about by the restructuring of the electric power industry pursuant to Republic Act No. 9136 (http://www.gov.ph/2001/06/08/republic-act-no-9136/), otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001"."
- SEC. 3. A new section is hereby inserted under Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, to be designated as Section 2-A, to read as follows:
- "SEC. 2-A. Scope. This Act shall establish a framework for introducing structural, reforms in the NEA and the electric cooperatives."
- SEC. 4. Five (5) new paragraphs, to be designated as paragraphs (s), (t), (u), (v) and (w), are hereby inserted under Section 3 of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, to read as follows:
- "SEC. 3. Definitions. As used in this Decree, the following words or terms shall have the following meanings, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

"x x x

- "(s) 'CDA' shall refer to the Cooperative Development Authority created under Republic Act No. 6939, as amended.
- "(t) 'DOE' shall refer to the Department of Energy created under Republic Act No. 7638, as amended.
- "(u) 'Electric cooperative' shall refer to an electric distribution utility organized and registered pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, Republic Act No. 9520, and other related laws.
- "(v) 'EPIRA' shall refer to Republic Act No. 9136 or the 'Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001'.
- "(w) 'ERC' shall refer to the Energy Regulatory Commission created under Section 38 of Republic Act No. 9136."

CHAPTER II

THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 5. Section 4 of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

- "SEC. 4. Powers, Functions and Privileges of the National Electrification Administration. To strengthen the electric cooperatives, help them become economically viable and prepare them for the implementation of retail competition and open access pursuant to Section 31 of the EPIRA, the NEA is authorized and empowered to:
 - "(a) have a continuous succession under its corporate name until otherwise provided by law;
 - "(b) adopt and use a seal and alter it at its pleasure;
 - "(c) sue and be sued in any court: Provided, That the NEA shall, unless it consents otherwise, be immune to suits for acts ex delicti;
 - "(d) make contracts of every name and nature and execute all instruments necessary or convenient for the carrying on of its business;
 - "(e) supervise the management and operations of all electric cooperatives;
 - "(f) exercise step-in rights as herein defined;
 - "(g) provide institutional, financial and technical assistance to electric cooperatives upon request of the electric cooperatives;
 - "(h) pursue the total electrification of the country through the electric cooperatives by way of enhancing distribution development and, in case of missionary areas, shall be done in coordination with the National Power Corporation Small Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) which shall be responsible for the generation and transmission requirements, as necessary;
 - "(i) devote all returns from its capital investments to attain the objectives of this Act;
 - "(j) ensure the economic and financial viability and operation of all electric cooperatives;
 - "(k) restructure ailing electric cooperatives with the end in view of making them economically and financially viable;
 - "(I) develop, set and enforce institutional and governance standards for the efficient operation of electric cooperatives such as, but not limited to, the observance of appropriate procurement procedure, including transparent and competitive bidding. Such standards shall be enforced through a mechanism of incentives and disincentives to complying and non-complying electric cooperatives, respectively;
 - "(m) formulate and impose administrative sanctions and penalties and when warranted, file criminal cases against those who are found in violation of any of the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR);
 - "(n) serve as guarantor to qualified electric cooperatives in their transactions with various parties such as, but not limited to, co-signing in power supply contracts;
 - "(o) grant loans to electric cooperatives, for the construction or acquisition, operation and maintenance of subtransmission and distribution facilities and all related properties, equipment, machinery, fixtures, and materials for the purpose of supplying area coverage service, and thereafter to grant loans for the restoration, improvement or enlargement of such facilities or for such other purposes as may be deemed necessary;
 - "(p) subject to the prior approval and/or opinion of the Monetary Board, borrow funds from any source, private or government, foreign or domestic, and secure the lenders thereof by pledging, sharing or subordinating one or more of the NEA's own loan securities;
 - "(q) exercise primary and exclusive jurisdiction in the adjudication of complaints against electric cooperative officers, election disputes and all matters relating to the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act;
 - "(r) as a quasi-judicial agency, deputize local law enforcement agencies to enforce or implement its orders or decisions, with the power to cite for contempt any party or witness to any case before it for contumacious conduct; and
 - "(s) exercise such powers and do such things as may be necessary to carry out the business and purposes for which the NEA was established, or which from time to time may be declared by the Board of Administrators as necessary, useful, incidental or auxiliary to accomplish such purposes.
 - "For this purpose, the authorized capital stock of the NEA is hereby increased to Twenty-five billion pesos (P25,000,000,000.000) divided into two hundred fifty million (250,000,000) shares with a par value of One hundred pesos (P100.00)."
- SEC. 6. A new section, to be designated as Section 4-A, is hereby inserted under Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended to read as follows:
- "SEC. 4-A. Supervisory Powers of the NEA Over Electric Cooperatives. In the exercise of its power of supervision over electric cooperatives, the NEA shall have the following powers:
 - "(a) issue orders, rules and regulations, motu proprio or upon petition of third parties, to conduct investigations, referenda and other similar actions on all matters affecting the electric cooperatives;
 - "(b) issue preventive or disciplinary measures including, but not limited to, suspension or removal and replacement of any or all of the members of the board of directors and officers of the electric cooperative, as the NEA may deem fit and necessary and to take any other remedial measures as the law or any agreement or arrangement with NEA may provide, to attain the objectives of this Act: and
 - "(c) appoint independent board of directors in the electric cooperative.
 - $\hbox{``The NEA shall, in the exercise of its supervisory and disciplinary powers under this Act, strictly observe due process of law.''}$
- SEC. 7. A new section, to be designated as Section 4-B, is hereby inserted under Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, to read as follows:
- "SEC. 4-B. Step-in Rights in Cases of Ailing Cooperatives. The NEA shall immediately step-in and take over from its Board the operations of any ailing electric cooperative. Within a reasonable period after take-over, the NEA may convert the ailing cooperative to either a stock cooperative registered with the CDA or a stock corporation registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

"The NEA shall in determining the propriety of the conversion, be guided by the ability of the member-consumers of said electric cooperative to pay for their shares in the stock cooperative or stock corporation.

"The NEA may appoint or assign third persons to the Board of the electric cooperative until the NEA decides that the election of a new board of directors to manage the electric cooperative is necessary. The NEA may create a management team for the purpose.

"The NEA shall, in the exercise of its step-in rights under this Act, strictly observe due process of law. The step-in rights may only be exercised by the NEA in case of failure of-the electric cooperative to meet operational and financial standards set by the NEA or in other analogous instances set forth in the IRR of this Act."

SEC. 8. A new section, to be designated as Section 4-C, is hereby inserted under Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, to read as follows:

"SEC. 4-C. Injunction or Temporary Restraining Order. – No injunction or temporary restraining order shall be issued against the implementation of any order, ruling or decision of the NEA, except by the Court of Appeals, and only upon the posting of a bond sufficient to cover the liabilities and expenditures arising during the pendency of the writ or injunction or temporary restraining order: Provided, That the injunction shall only be effective for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days."

CHAPTER III

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

SEC. 9. Section 16, paragraph (j) of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 16. Powers. – A cooperative is hereby vested with all powers necessary or convenient for the accomplishment of its corporate purpose and capable of being delegated by the President or the National Assembly when it comes into existence; and no enumeration of particular powers hereby granted shall be construed to impair any general grant of power herein contained, nor to limit any such grant to a power or powers of the same class as those so enumerated. Such powers shall include, but not be limited to, the power.

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- "(j) To construct, acquire, own, operate and maintain electric subtransmission and distribution lines along, upon, under and across publicly owned lands and public thoroughfares, including, without limitation, all roads, highways, streets, alleys, bridges and causeways. In the event of the need of such lands and thoroughfares for the primary purpose of the government, the electric cooperative shall be properly compensated;
- "(j-1) To construct, acquire, own, operate and maintain generating facilities within its franchise area. In pursuance thereof, where an electric cooperative participates in a bid on an existing NPC-SPUG generating facility, its qualified bid shall be given preference m case of a tie: *Provided, however*, That in cases where there is no other qualified bidder, the lone bid shall remain as valid basis for the determination of the final award subject to the following conditions:
- "(a) bid offer is not lower than the valuation of the assets using Commission on Audit (COA) rules and regulations;
- "(b) electric cooperative is prepared to fully take over the generation function of the area from the NPC-SPUG; and
- "(c) electric cooperative submits its graduation program from the Universal Charge for Missionary Electrification (UC-ME) subsidy.

"x x x."

- SEC. 10. A new section, to be designated as Section 26-A of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby inserted to read as follows:
- "SEC. 26-A. Independence of the Board of Directors and Officers of Electric Cooperatives. To ensure the long-term business and economic viability of electric cooperatives, the management, operations and strategic planning of electric cooperatives shall, as much as practicable, be insulated from local politics.

"Towards this end, no person shall be elected or appointed as an officer or be eligible to run as a board member of an electric cooperative if:

- "(a) such person or his or her spouse holds any public office;
- "(b) such person or his or her spouse has been a candidate in the last preceding local or national elections;
- "(c) such person has been convicted by final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude;
- "(d) such person has been terminated for cause from public office or private employment;
- "(e) such person is related to any member of the electric cooperative board of directors, general manager and department managers within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity;
- "(f) such person is a representative of a juridical person; and
- "(g) such person is employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or electrical hardware to the cooperative or doing business with the cooperative, including the use or rental of poles."
- SEC. 11. A new section, to be designated as Section 26-B, is hereby inserted under Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended to read as follows:
- "SEC. 26-B. Fit and Proper Rule. To ensure that the management and operations of electric cooperatives are carried out with due regard to its economic viability, the NEA shall prescribe, pass upon and review the qualifications and disqualifications of individuals appointed or elected to electric cooperatives and disqualify those found unfit.
- "A candidate's integrity, experience, education, competence and probity shall be considered in determining whether he or she shall be fit and proper to become a director or officer of the electric cooperative.

"For this purpose, the minimum qualifications of a director or officer of the electric cooperative shall be as follows:

"(a) He or she is a Filipino citizen;

- "(b) He or she is a graduate of a four (4)-year course;
- "(c) He or she is between twenty-one (21) and seventy (70) years old, on the date of election;
- "(d) He or she is of good moral character:
- "(e) He or she is a member of the electric cooperative in good standing for the last five (5) years immediately preceding the election or appointment;
- "(f) He or she is an actual resident and consumer in the district that he or she seeks to represent for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the election; and
- "(g) He or she has attended at least two (2) Annual General Membership Assemblies (AGMA) for the last five (5) years immediately preceding the election or appointment.

"The NEA may, after due notice to the board of directors and officers of the electric cooperative, disqualify, suspend or remove any director or officer, who commits any act which renders him unfit for the position."

- SEC. 12. Section 32 of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:
- "SEC. 32. Registration of All Electric Cooperatives. All electric cooperatives may choose to remain as a non-stock, non-profit cooperative or convert into and register as: (a) a stock cooperative under the CDA; or (b) a stock corporation under the SEC, in accordance with the guidelines to be included in the IRR of this Act.

"Such choice shall carry with it the attendant requirements of compliance with the laws and regulatory guidelines governing the respective government agencies having jurisdiction over their registration.

"Regardless of the choice made, the NEA shall have the authority over electric cooperatives, whether stock or non-stock, to require the submission of reportorial requirements as may be necessary relative to their operations as electric distribution utilities including, but not limited to:

- "(a) Monthly Financial and Statistical Report (MFSR);
- "(b) monthly separate MFSR. Monthly Engineering Report (MER) and barangay and sitio electrification report fear electric cooperatives on grid with isolated area/s served by NPC-SPUG;
- "(c) monthly status of barangay and sitio energization and house connections;
- "(d) monthly Institutional Services Department (ISD) report;
- "(e) monthly Performance Standard Monitoring Report (PSMR);
- "(f) monthly summary of complaints received and acted upon;
- "(g) monthly report on compliance with the Grid and Distribution Code:
- "(h) Monthly Engineering Report (MER);
- "(i) quarterly report on power supply contracts;
- "(j) annual work plan;
- "(k) annual Distribution Development Plan (DDP);
- "(I) five (5)-year investment plan submitted annually;
- "(m) annual Cash Operating Budget (COB);
- "(n) audited financial statements;
- "(o) annual Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) or Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA); and
- "(p) copy of Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) and Operating Expenditure (OPEX) plans.

"Likewise, the supervisory and oversight functions of the NEA, as may be detailed in this Act and its IRR, shall be applicable to both stock and non-stock cooperatives.

"Electric cooperatives which register with the CDA shall continue to enjoy the benefits under this Act.

"Existing electric cooperatives may likewise opt to register as stock corporations with the SEC; Provided, however, That electric cooperatives registered with the SEC shall no longer enjoy the incentives provided for in this Act.

"Despite the registration of the electric cooperatives under the CDA or the SEC, the NEA shall retain its supervisory and disciplinary power over them in the conduct of its operation as electric distribution utilities."

- SEC. 13. A new section, to be designated as Section 32-A, of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby inserted to read as follows:
- "SEC. 32-A. Incentives of Electric Cooperatives. Consistent with the declared policy of this Act, electric cooperatives which comply with the financial and operational standards set by the NEA shall enjoy the following incentives:
 - "(a) To be entitled to congressional allocations, grants, subsidies and other financial assistance for rural electrification;

"(b) To receive all subsidies, grants and other assistance which shall form part of the donated capital and funds of the electric cooperatives, and as such, it shall not be sold, traded nor divided into share holdings at any time. These donated capital and funds shall be appraised and valued for the sole purpose of determining the equity participation of the members: Provided, That in case of dissolution or conversion of the electric cooperative, said donated capital and funds shall be subject to escheat; and

"(c) To avail of the preferential rights granted to cooperatives under Republic Act No. 7160 (http://www.gov.ph/1991/10/10/republic-act-no-7160/), otherwise known as the 'Local Government Code of 1991', and other related laws.

"As a further incentive, the NEA may prioritize the grant of incentives in favor of electric cooperatives that are managed effectively and efficiently and comply consistently with its mandates and directives."

CHAPTER IV

FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 14. A new section, to be designated as Section 64-A, of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 64-A. Penalties. – Any person who willfully violates any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the authority granted in this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court: Provided, That if the violation is committed by a juridical person, the penalty herein prescribed shall be imposed upon the official and/or employee thereof responsible for the violation: Provided, further, That if the violation is committed by a government official or employee, including those in government-owned or -controlled corporations, such person shall, in addition to the penalty provided herein, be subjected to administrative disciplinary action."

SEC. 15. A new section, to be designated as Section 64-B of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 64-B. Congressional Oversight. – Upon the effectivity of this Act, the Joint Congressional Power Commission created under Section 62 of Republic Act No. 9136 shall exercise oversight powers over the implementation of this Act."

SEC. 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOE shall, in coordination with the NEA and the CDA, and in consultation with the electric cooperatives, issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement this Act.

SEC. 17. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 18. Repealing Clause. – Article 132(3) of Republic Act No. 9520 and Section 30 of Republic Act No. 9136 (EPIRA) on NEA's authorized capital stock are hereby repealed. Any other provision of law, presidential decree, executive order, or rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or with the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 19. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect on the fifteenth (15th) day following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

$({\sf Sgd.}) \ \textbf{FELICIANO BELMONTE JR}.$

Speaker of the House of Representatives

(Sgd.) JUAN PONCE ENRILE

President of the Senate

This Act which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 3389 and House Bill No. 6214 was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on February 4, 2013.

(Sgd.) MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP

Secretary General

House of Representatives

(Sgd.) EDWIN B. BELLEN

Acting Senate Secretary

Approved: MAY 07 2013

(Sgd.) BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

President of the Philippines

RESOURCES

• [PDF] Republic Act No. 10531, May 7, 2013 (http://www.gov.ph/downloads/2013/05may/20130507-RA-10531-BSA.pdf)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Department Circular No. 2013-07-

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47 48 RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10531

Pursuant to Section 16 of Republic Act No. 10531, otherwise known as the "National Electrification Administration Reform Act of 2013" (Act), the Department of Energy (DOE), in coordination with the National Electrification Administration (NEA) and Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and in consultation with the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, inc. (PHILRECA), Philippine Federation of Rural Cooperatives (PHILFECO), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Governance Commission for Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GCG), Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC), National Power Corporation (NPC), National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)/National Grid of Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC), Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), hereby issues, adopts and promulgates the following rules and regulations implementing the provisions of the Act.

RULE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The succeeding rules and regulations shall include the general provisions to be followed in implementing the structural reforms in the National Electrification Administration and the electric cooperatives in pursuit of rural electrification.

RULE 2. TITLE AND SCOPE, DECLARATION OF POLICY AND DEFINITION OF **TERMS**

Department Circular No. 2013-07-____ shall be known as the "Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 10531," otherwise known as the "National Electrification Administration Reform Act of 2013".

Section 2. Scope.

Section 1. Title.

These Rules are promulgated under the authority of the DOE, in coordination with the NEA and the CDA, and in consultation with the electric cooperatives, to implement the Act and to establish a framework for introducing structural, reforms in the NEA and the electric cooperatives."

Section 3. Declaration of Policy

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

(a) promote the sustainable development in the rural areas through rural electrification;

- (b) empower and strengthen the National Electrification Administration (NEA) to pursue the electrification program and bring electricity, through the electric cooperatives as its implementing arm, to the countryside even in missionary or economically unviable areas:
 - (c) empower and enable electric cooperatives to cope with the changes brought about by the restructuring of the electric power industry pursuant to Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001"."

Section 4. Definition of Terms

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For the purpose of these Implementing Rules and Regulations, the following terms are defined as follows:

- Act shall refer to Republic Act No. 10531. a.
 - Ailing Electric Cooperatives shall refer to an ailing electric cooperative shall mean a critically challenged EC and is defined as one that has no means of meeting its outstanding obligations due to financial, technical and/or institutional inefficiency.
- Comment SHOULD BE DEFINED BASED ON SECTION 3 RULE IV ON 21 **AILING COOPERATIVES** 22
 - Barangay shall refer to the smallest political unit in the country. C.
 - d. Barangay Line Enhancement Program (BLEP) – shall refer to connection of barangays previously energized by small generating sets or solar home system to the grid.
 - Bona fide Member shall refer to a person who is a member-consumer in good standing who has met all the requirements set and has been listed/included in the Master list of voters, to have voting rights, under the one-member, one vote policy of the EC.
 - CAPEX Fund shall refer to capital expenditure funding which may be sourced f. from Reinvestment Fund for Sustainable Capital Expenditure (RFSC), NEA, and/or other financial institutions.

NOTE: For further refinement by the NEA ACT IRR TWG

- Complaint shall refer to an administrative complaint as defined in the NEA g. Administrative Committee Rules of Procedure.
- Consumer Electrification Program (CEP) shall refer to the provision of electric 44 h. 45 service to potential consumers in the electric cooperatives' franchise area.
- Cooperative Code shall refer to R.A. 9520 otherwise known as the "Philippine 47 i. Cooperative Code of 2008"... 48 49

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j. Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) – shall refer to the entity created under R.A. No. 6939:

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5 k. Corporation Code – shall refer to Batas Pambansa Blg. 68.

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 Decision – shall refer to a determination arrived at by NEA after considering relevant facts and/or law in the exercise of any one or more of its functions and powers.

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m. District – shall refer to a town/municipality or to a group of towns/municipalities contiguously located within the franchise area of an EC or to a city or a portion thereof, as defined in the by-laws of the EC;

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 n. District Meeting – shall refer to a gathering of the bona fide member-consumers of an EC from a particular district, and held within the geographical confines of such district;

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o. Electric Cooperative Officers – shall include the following:

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- i. Members of the Board of Directors;
- ii. The General Manager:
- iii. Department Managers;
- iv. Area Managers;
- v. Division Chiefs;
 - vi. Members of the Bids and Awards Committee; and
 - vii. Other designated/responsible officers with equivalent rank as those enumerated above.

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p. Electric Cooperative (EC) – shall refer to a Distribution Utility organized pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended or as otherwise provided in the EPIRA.

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q. Embedded Generators – shall refer to generating units that are indirectly connected to the Grid and Small Grid through the Distribution Utilities' lines or industrial generation facilities that are synchronized with the Grid.

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38 r. End-user – shall refer to any person or entity requiring the supply and delivery of electricity for its own use.

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s. Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) – shall refer to the regulatory agency created under Republic Act 9136.

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t. Financial Viability – shall refer to the capability of the ECs to implement total electrification without need of the universal charge for missionary electrification (UC-ME)

u. Funded through CAPEX - shall refer to capital expenditure funding which may be sourced from NEA and/or other financial institutions through loans or through the ECs internally-generated funds.

NOTE: DEFINITION IS VAGUE.

v. Generating Facility – shall refer to a facility for the production of electricity.

w. Grid – shall refer to the high voltage backbone system of interconnected transmission lines, substations and related facilities, located in each of Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, or as may otherwise be determined by the ERC in accordance with Section 45 of the EPIRA.

x. General Assembly – shall refer to a meeting of all the bona fide memberconsumers coming from all the districts of an EC, held within its franchise area, and conducted based on the annual schedule prescribed in the by-laws of the EC.

y. Line Enhancement Program for Sitios (LEPS) – shall refer to the connection of sitios previously energized by solar energy to the grid.

z. Local Law Enforcement Agencies – shall refer to, but not limited to, the following:

- i. The Philippine National Police;
- ii. The Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- iii. Court Sheriffs of the Trial Courts, and
- iv. The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

aa. Marginalized household - shall refer to families below poverty line threshold as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

bb. Membership Meetings – shall refer to a gathering of bona fide member-consumers of an EC, either as a General Assembly, or as a District Meeting.

cc. National Electrification Administration or NEA – shall refer to the government agency created under Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended by PD 1645 and RA 10531, with additional mandate set forth in the RA 9136, EPIRA.

dd. Order – shall refer to any office order, command, direction, mandate, circular,
 memorandum authoritatively given by NEA or its duly authorized representative.

ee. Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA) – shall refer to the national association of all the ECs operating nationwide.

ff. PHILFECO -

gg. Public Office - shall refer to any position which requires the performance of 1 public functions / duties of government by virtue of direct provision of law, either 2 by popular election, or appointment by competent authority. Appointive office 3 shall mean co-terminus position with the appointing authority. 4 5 6 7 hh. Ruling – shall refer to an administrative interpretation by NEA or its duly authorized representative on a provision of a statute, order, regulation, circular, 8 memorandum or government policy relating to electric cooperatives, the NEA or 9 the rural electrification. 10 11 Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) – shall refer to the government ii. 12 agency created under Commonwealth Act No. 83, as amended. 13 14 Sitio - shall refer to a territorial enclave within a barangay which may be distant ij. 15 from the barangay center. 16 17 Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) - shall mean energization of all sitios 18 nationwide within the ECs' franchise area. 19 20 II. Small Grid - the backbone system of interconnected high voltage (HV) lines or 21 medium voltage (MV) lines, substations and other related facilities not 22 23 connected to the grid in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. 24 mm. Stock Cooperative – shall refer to a association of persons duly registered with 25 the CDA, with a common bond of interest, who have voluntarily joined together 26 to achieve a lawful common social or economic end, making equitable 27 contributions to the capital required and accepting a fair share of the risk and 28 benefits of the undertakings in accordance with the universally accepted 29 cooperative principles. 30 31 nn. Stock Corporation – shall refer to an artificial being created by operation of law, 32 with capital stock divided into shares, and authorized to distribute to its 33 Shareholders' dividends out of its surplus profits, having the right of succession 34 and the powers, attributes and properties expressly authorized by law or 35 36 incident to its existence; 37 38 39 oo. Total Electrification - shall mean providing electric service to every household 40 within the franchise area of electric cooperatives (ECs) in rural and urban areas 41 of the country. 42 43 44 PART II. POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND PRIVILEGES 45

OF NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

To strengthen the electric cooperatives, help them become economically viable and prepare them for the implementation of retail competition and open access pursuant to Section 31 of the EPIRA, the NEA is authorized and empowered to:

(a) have a continuous succession under its corporate name until otherwise provided by law;

(b) adopt and use a seal and alter it at its pleasure;

(c) sue and be sued in any court: Provided, That the NEA shall, unless it consents otherwise, be immune to suits for acts ex delicti;

(d) make contracts of every name and nature and execute all instruments necessary or convenient for the carrying on of its business:

(e) supervise the management and operations of all electric cooperatives;

18 (f) exercise step-in rights as herein defined;

20 (g) provide institutional, financial and technical assistance to electric cooperatives upon request of the electric cooperatives;

(h) pursue the total electrification of the country through the electric cooperatives by way of enhancing distribution development and, in case of missionary areas, shall be done in coordination with the National Power Corporation – Small Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) which shall be responsible for the generation and transmission requirements, as necessary;

(i) devote all returns from its capital investments to attain the objectives of the Act; NOTE: TWG suggest to define "returns on capital investment"

31 (j)

(j) ensure the economic and financial viability and operation of all electric cooperatives;

(k) restructure ailing electric cooperatives with the end in view of making them economically and financially viable;

(I) develop, set and enforce institutional and governance standards for the efficient operation of electric cooperatives such as, but not limited to, the observance of appropriate procurement procedure, including transparent and competitive bidding. Such standards shall be enforced through a mechanism of incentives and disincentives to complying and non-complying electric cooperatives, respectively;

(m) formulate and impose administrative sanctions and penalties and when warranted, file criminal cases against those who are found in violation of any of the provisions of the Act and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR);

(n) serve as guarantor to qualified electric cooperatives in their transactions with various parties such as, but not limited to, co-signing in power supply contracts;

- (o) grant loans to electric cooperatives, for the construction or acquisition, operation and maintenance of subtransmission and distribution facilities and all related properties, equipment, machinery, fixtures, and materials for the purpose of supplying area coverage service, and thereafter to grant loans for the restoration, improvement or enlargement of such facilities or for such other purposes as may be deemed necessary;
- (p) subject to the prior approval and/or opinion of the Monetary Board, borrow funds from any source, private or government, foreign or domestic, and secure the lenders thereof by pledging, sharing or subordinating one or more of the NEA's own loan securities;
- (q) exercise primary and exclusive jurisdiction in the adjudication of complaints against electric cooperative officers, election disputes and all matters relating to the effective implementation of the provisions of the Act;
- (r) as a quasi-judicial agency, deputize local law enforcement agencies to enforce or implement its orders or decisions, with the power to cite for contempt any party or witness to any case before it for contumacious conduct; and
- (s) exercise such powers and do such things as may be necessary to carry out the business and purposes for which the NEA was established, or which from time to time may be declared by the Board of Administrators as necessary, useful, incidental or auxiliary to accomplish such purposes.

RULE II. TOTAL ELECTRIFICATION

The legal basis for this rule is Section 5 (h) of R.A. 10531, quoted as follows:

"Section 5. Section 4 of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:"

"Sec. 4. Powers, Functions and Privileges of the National Electrification Administration.- To strengthen the electric cooperatives, help them become economically viable and prepare them for the implementation of retail competition and open access pursuant to Section 31 of the EPIRA, the NEA is authorized and empowered to:"

"(h) pursue the total electrification of the country through the electric cooperatives by way of enhancing

XXX

Section 1. LEGAL BASIS.

1 2 3 4	distribution development and, in case of missionary areas, shall be done in coordination with the National Power Corporation – Small Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) which shall be responsible for the generation and
5 6 7 8	transmission requirements, as necessary."
9	Section 2. SCOPE OF TOTAL ELECTRIFICATION. (FOR POLICY RESOLUTION
10 11	BY THE DOE)
12	
13	Total Electrification shall be pursued by electric cooperatives by way of enhancing
14 15	Electric Distribution System Development which shall include the following:
16	(1) Government Subsidy Funded
17	
18	(a) Improvement of distribution lines which will serve as
19	tapping point for Sitio Electrification, Barangay Line
20	Enhancement Programs and Line Enhancement Program
21	for Sitios;
22	
23	(b) Construction of new distribution systems to extend electric
24	service to un-electrified areas;
25	() -
26	(c) Enhancement of distribution lines of barangays and/or
27	sitios previously energized through off-grid technology for
28	connection to the ECs main electric distribution system;
29	(d) Installation of submaring public to interconnect islands to
30	(d) Installation of submarine cable to interconnect islands to
31 32	the main grid;
33	(e) Provision of house wiring cost and local fees to
34	marginalized households;
35	maiginalized riodeenerde,
36	(f) Pursue construction of embedded generation when deemed
37	feasible to ensure, among others, supply security of electric
38	power and complement total electrification policy;
39	
40	
41	(1.1) Responsibilities of Electric Cooperatives
42	
43	(a) Submission of documentary requirements:
44 45	(a. 4) Des Construction
45 46	(a.1) Pre Construction
46 47	(a. 1.1) Distribution Dayslanment Blan
47 40	(a.1.1) Distribution Development Plan
48	incorporating energization

1 2		program targets and estimated project costs;
34567		(a.1.2) Technical documents such as staking sheets, construction assembly units, budget request, board resolution and other documents as may be required;
8 9 10 11		(a.1.3) Certification from the Barangay Chairman on the authenticity of the list of sitios for energization, potential
12 13 14		consumers and accessibility. (a.2) During Construction
15 16 17 18		(a.2.1) Status of Program Implementation Accomplishment.
19 20 21		(a.3) Post Construction (a.3.1) Certificate of Project Completion;
22 23 24		(a.3.2) Certificate of Energization; (a.3.3) Accounting of Funds; (a.3.4) Close-out of completed projects.
25 26 27		(a.4) Continuing
28 29 30 31 32		The Electric Cooperatives shall submit a monthly status of energization report per municipality, to include barangays and sitios, in their franchise areas.
33 34	(1.2)	Responsibilities of the Agency (NEA)
335 36 37 38		(1.2.1) Issuance of policies related to the efficient, effective and responsive implementation of the total electrification program;
39 40 41		(1.2.2)Formulation of strategies, in the implementation of the total electrification program;
42 43		(1.2.3) Project monitoring of implementation & accomplishment;
44 45 46		(1.2.4)Conduct of final inspection & acceptance of energized projects;

1	(1.2.5)Post audit of completed/energized projects.
2 3	(2) EC funded through CAPEX:
4	O 4 D. History and a substation in accompatity and accompatity within the
5 6	2.1 Putting up of substation in every city and municipality within the franchise area of the ECs as may be necessary;
7 8	2.2Rehabilitation and upgrading of distribution system to ensure
9	power reliability and efficiency.
10	
11 12	(3) Missionary electrification in off-grid and on-grid isolated areas shall be done through coordination with NPC-SPUG which shall be responsible for
13	generation and transmission.
14 15	In the performance of missionary electrification, the EC shall extend
16 17	assistance to QTP serving a QTP area within its franchise, such as but not limited to acquisition of right of way, site acquisition, and coordination
18	with concerned local agencies. The assistance given by the DU shall not
19	interfere with the exclusive authority of the QTP to supply the electricity
20	requirements of the QTP area.
21	For this grows and Dula 7 Continue 4 (f) and (g) of the FDIDA IDD and boundary
22 23	For this purpose, Rule 7 Section 4 (f) and (g) of the EPIRA IRR are hereby reiterated as follows:
24 25	XXX.
26	7000
27	(f) "A DU shall provide universal service within its franchise area, over a
28	reasonable time, including unviable areas, as part of its social obligations.
29	This obligations shall be performed in a manner shall allow such DU to
30 31	collect different rates in unviable areas to sustain its economic viability subject to the approval by the ERC."
32	Subject to the approval by the Livo.
33	(g) "A DU shall file with the ERC its petition to allow another DU to provide
34	electricity to areas that it does not find viable, pursuant to Section 6 of the
35	EPIRA-IRR."
36	
37	RULE III. NEA QUASI-JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS AND SUPERVISORY POWERS
38	
39	Section 1. LEGAL BASES.
40	
41	The legal bases for this rule are Section 5(q) and (r), Section 6 and Section 8 of this
42	Act, quoted as follows:
43	SEC 5 Section 4 of Propidential Degree No. 260, as amended in hereby
44 45	SEC. 5. Section 4 of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:
46	XXX

1	
2	"(q) exercise primary and exclusive jurisdiction in the adjudication of
3	complaints against electric cooperative officers, election disputes and all
4	matters relating to the effective implementation of the provisions of this
5	Act;
6	NOTES:
7	■ THE EC'S BY-LAWS IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE
8	PROVISIONS OF THE NEA REFORM ACT.
9	 THERE'S A NEED FOR NEA TO ISSUE AN AMENDED ELECTION
10	GUIDELINES
11	 THERE IS AN ISSUE AS TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM OF
12	THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
13	 CDA RAISED THE NEED TO CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF THE
14	ADR FOR CDA-REGISTERED ECS.
15	THE NEED TO CLARIFY THE EXTENT OF SUPERVISORY
16	FUNCTIONS OF NEA
17	NEA ACT IRR TWG AGREEMENTS:
18	■ TO RECOMMEND TO NEA TO ISSUE A MEMORANDUM FOR ECS
19	TO CONFORM WITH THE LAW (RA 10531) AND TO LOOK AT THE
20	BY-LAWS OF THE ECS.
21	 NEA TO SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDED ELECTION GUIDELINES
22	FOR BOD SUBJECT TO COMMENTS BY THE TWG. COMMENTS
23	OF THE SUB-TWG SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY (JUNE 24,
24	2013).
25	■ THERE SHOULD BE A TRANSITION PERIOD IN THE
26	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES.
27	 TO INCORPORATE THE PROVISIONS OF THE ADR IN THE EC'S
28	BY-LAWS ONLY FOR CDA-REGISTERED ECS
29	THE EXTENT OF SUPERVISORY FUNCTION OF NEA OVER THE
30	ECS SHALL BE SUPERVISION IN THE OPERATION OF ALL ECS
31	WHETHER CDA-REGISTERED OR NOT. CDA SHALL BE
32	CONFINED TO REGISTRATION OF EC'S AND SOME COROLLARY
33	MATTERS.
34	
35	"(r) as a quasi-judicial agency, deputize local law enforcement agencies to
36	enforce or implement its orders or decisions, with the power to cite for
37	contempt any party or witness to any case before it for contumacious

conduct;

1 2	XXX
3	SEC. 6. A new section, to be designated as Section 4-A, is hereby
4	inserted under Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended to read as
5	follows:
6	"SEC. 4-A. Supervisory Powers of the NEA Over Electric Cooperatives. –
7 8	In the exercise of its power of supervision over electric cooperatives, the NEA shall have the following powers:
9	"(a) issue orders, rules and regulations, motu proprio or upon petition of
10 11	third parties, to conduct investigations, referenda and other similar actions on all matters affecting the electric cooperatives;
12	"(b) appoint independent board of directors in the electric cooperative.
13	"The NEA shall, in the exercise of its supervisory and disciplinary powers
14	under this Act, strictly observe due process of law."
15	
16	SEC. 8. A new section, to be designated as Section 4-C, is hereby
17 18	inserted under Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, to read as follows:
19	"SEC. 4-C. Injunction or Temporary Restraining Order. – No injunction or
20	temporary restraining order shall be issued against the implementation of
21	any order, ruling or decision of the NEA, except by the Court of Appeals,
22 23	and only upon the posting of a bond sufficient to cover the liabilities and expenditures arising during the pendency of the writ or injunction or
24	temporary restraining order: <i>Provided</i> , That the injunction shall only be
25	effective for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days."
26	
27	Section 2. SCOPE OF QUASI-JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS.
28 29	Pursuant to the above-quoted provisions of this Act, the NEA in the exercise of its
30	quasi-judicial functions, shall have jurisdiction over the following administrative
31	cases:
32	(1) Coope involving complainte against electric cooperative officers including
33	(1) Cases involving complaints against electric cooperative officers, including

(2) Election disputes involving any elective officer of an electric cooperative; and

exercise of its moto-propio powers as provided in Section 6 of this Act;

those cases or investigation and other similar actions arising from NEA's

2	of the provisions of this Act.
3 4	Section 3. ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE OFFICERS.
5 6 7	Electric cooperative officers, as used in the two immediately preceding sections shall be understood to be limited to the following:
8 9 10 11	 Members of the Board of Directors; The General Manager; Department Managers;
L2 L3 L4	4. Area Managers;5. Division Chiefs;6. Members of the Bids and Awards Committee; and
L5 L6 L7	7. Other designated/responsible officers with rank equivalent to any one of those enumerated above.
L8 L9 20	Section 4. NEA ORDERS, RULINGS OR DECISIONS NOT SUBJECT TO INJUNCTIVE ORDERS.
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	All orders, rulings, resolutions or decisions promulgated by the NEA, Board of Administrators or its duly appointed representative whether in the exercise of its quasi-judicial, rule making or supervisory powers, shall not be the subject of any injunctive order from the regular courts. Pursuant to Section 8 of this Act, the Court of Appeals may restrain such orders, rulings or decisions, but only upon the posting of a bond, sufficient to cover the liabilities and expenditures arising during the pendency of the writ of injunction or temporary restraining order; provided further, that such injunction shall only be effective for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days.
31 32	RULE IV. STEP-IN RIGHTS
33 34	Section 1. LEGAL BASIS.
35 36 37	The legal basis for this rule is Section 7 of this Act, quoted as follows:
38 39 40	SEC. 7. A new section, to be designated as Section 4-B, is hereby inserted under Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, to read as follows:
11 12 13	"SEC. 4-B. Step-in Rights in Cases of Ailing Cooperatives. – The NEA shall immediately step-in and take over from its Board the operations of any ailing electric cooperative. Within a reasonable period after take-over,
14 15	the NEA may convert the ailing cooperative to either a stock cooperative registered with the CDA or a stock corporation registered with the
16	Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

"The NEA shall in determining the propriety of the conversion, be guided by the ability of the member-consumers of said electric cooperative to pay for their shares in the stock cooperative or stock corporation.

"The NEA may appoint or assign third persons to the Board of the electric cooperative until the NEA decides that the election of a new board of directors to manage the electric cooperative is necessary. The NEA may create a management team for the purpose.

"The NEA shall, in the exercise of its step-in rights under this Act, strictly observe due process of law. The step-in rights may only be exercised by the NEA in case of failure of-the electric cooperative to meet operational and financial standards set by the NEA or in other analogous instances set forth in the IRR of this Act."

Section 2. OBJECTIVE.

NEA shall ensure the financial viability of the electric cooperatives, and take such preventive measures to maintain the same.

To protect the interest of the members-consumers and the public in general, the NEA shall have the right to intervene to ensure rehabilitation, financial turn-around and viability of ailing cooperatives.

Section 3. AILING ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

For the purpose of this Rule, an ailing electric cooperative shall also mean a critically challenged EC and is defined as one that has no means of meeting its outstanding obligations due to financial, technical and/or institutional inefficiency.

NEA shall declare an EC as an ailing EC when such EC falls under any of the following circumstances:

1. Has a negative Net Margin for the last three (3) years. Net Margin shall mean revenues less operating expenses.

2. Has accumulated 90 days arrears in power bills; -

3. Unable to provide electric service due to technical and/or financial inefficiencies including, but not limited to, high systems loss, low collection efficiency, below standard current ratio, operating loss, huge liabilities and/or institutional problems such as governance, and non-adherence to NEA and EC policies;

4. Unable to efficiently perform its electric distribution utility obligations or continue in business due to organizational, external and internal factors; and, -

5. When an EC has failed to meet other operational standards established by NEA.

SECTION 4. CLASSIFICATION OF AILING COOPERATIVES

4.1 NEA shall categorize ailing ECs into two:

- 4.1.1 Those which are "curable" or have a chance to turn-around based on the same factors of financial, technical and institutional efficiency; and
- 4.1.2 those which are "incurable" where recovery is impossible on the part of the EC.

SECTION 5. NEA'S EXERCISE OF STEP-IN RIGHTS

The NEA shall immediately step-in and take-over, from its Board, the operations of an ailing electric cooperative.

- 5.1 For Curable ECs, NEA shall undertake the following measures:
 - 5.1.1 Require the EC concerned to submit within 30 days a 180-day Recovery Plan/Action Plan and implement the same within thirty (30) days of approval by NEA.

If after the period of 180 days from the date of implementation of the Recovery/Action Plan and the EC concerned still fails to reverse the circumstance, NEA may assign a Project Supervisor (PS) or Project Supervisor/Acting General Manager (PS/AGM) or Management Team and, to the extent appropriate, cause the suspension and/or removal and replacement of any or all of the members of the Board of Directors, officers of employees of the cooperative.

Provided, that NEA shall decide on the matter within 30 calendar days.

- 5.1.2 Immediately appoint or assign a PS or PS/AGM or assign third persons to the Board of electric cooperative until the NEA decides that the election of a new Board of Directors to lead the electric cooperative is necessary. The NEA may also create a management team for the purpose.
- 5.1.3 In case of organizational and/or internal conflicts as provided under circumstance (3) in Sec. 4-B of this IRR, the NEA shall give the CDA or other appropriate government agency where the electric cooperative is legally registered, the opportunity to resolve or take remedial measures without prejudice to the exercise of its step-in-rights.

NOTE: AMRECO PROPOSED TO DELETE THE PRECEDING PROVISION, AND IF NOT, INSERT THE WORD "LEGALLY" BEFORE THE WORD REGISTERED

5.1.4 The concerned EC with the assistance and guidance of NEA may enter into a Private Sector Participation (PSP), under any of the following frameworks: 5.1.4.1 Joint Venture;

1		5.1.4.2 Investment Management Contract,
2		5.1.4.3 Management Contract;
3		5.1.4.4 Operations and Maintenance Contract;
4		5.1.4.5 Special Equipment and Materials Lease Agreement;
5		5.1.4.6 Concession; and
6		5.1.4.7 Merger and Consolidation.
7 8	5.2 For inc	curable ECs, the NEA shall undertake the following measures:
9	5.2.1	Immediately appoint or assign a PS or PSAGM or assign third persons to the
10		Board of electric cooperative until the NEA decides that the election of a new
11		Board of Directors to lead the electric cooperative is necessary. The NEA may
12		also create a management team for the purpose;
13		
14	5.2.2	In case of organizational and/or internal conflicts as provided under circumstance
15		(5) in Sec. 4-B of this IRR, the NEA shall give the CDA or other appropriate
16		government agency where the electric cooperative is registered, the opportunity
17		to resolve or take remedial measures without prejudice to the exercise of its step-
18		in-rights <u>:</u>
19		
20	5.2.3	The concerned EC with the guidance of NEA may enter into a Private Sector
21	0.2.0	Participation (PSP), under any of the following frameworks:
22		and space (i.e.,), and si any or and renorming manner terms.
23		5.2.3.1 Joint Venture;
24		5.2.3.2 Investment Management Contract;
25		5.2.3.3 Management Contract;
26		5.2.3.4 Operations and Maintenance Contract;
27		5.2.3.5 Special Equipment and Materials Lease Agreement;
28		5.2.3.6 Concession; and
29		5.2.3.7 Merger and Consolidation.
30		0.2.0.7 Worger and Corrobination.
31		If circumstances warrant and provided that the EC has failed to meet any
32		operational or financial standard set by NEA, the NEA may on behalf of the EC,
33		enter into an Investment Management Contract (IMC) or other form of PSP in
34		order to immediately address pressing as well as long-term problems of the EC. It
35		shall be the duty of the concerned EC to faithfully observe and comply with the
36		terms and conditions of such IMC or other form of PSP;
37		terms and conditions of each time of each ferm of the t
38	5.2.4	If within a reasonable period, not exceeding one (1) year from its take-over, the
39	0.2.4	NEA determines that such electric cooperative is unable to continue its operation
40		in the ordinary course of business, it may initiate structural reforms such as
41		conversion of the ailing cooperative to either a stock cooperative registered with
42		the CDA or a stock corporation registered with the Securities and Exchange
43		Commission (SEC);
44		

1 5.2.5 NEA may institute appropriate legal actions such as Extra-judicial Foreclosure and Insolvency (Voluntary/Involuntary) and Bankruptcy proceedings: 2 3 Section 6. MONITORING AND REPORTING 4 5 NEA shall have a monitoring team to be composed of ______ to require 6 monthly submission and monitoring of the following: 7 8 9 6.1 List and Status of Ailing ECs: 6.2 Report of PS/PSAGM on the ECs assigned to him/her; 10 6.3 Recovery/Action Plan of curable ECs; 11 12 6.4 Report on ECs that have entered with any variants of PSP; and 13 6.5 Other reports that may be required by NEA 14 15 **RULE V. EC GENERATING FACILITIES** 16 17 Section 1. LEGAL BASIS. 18 19 20 The legal basis for this rule is Section 9 of RA 10531, as amended 21 22 SEC. 9. Section 16, Paragraph (j), of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby 23 further amended, to read as follows: 24 25 "SEC. 16. Powers. – A cooperative is hereby vested with all powers necessary or convenient for the accomplishment of its corporate purpose and capable of being 26 delegated by the President or the National Assembly when it comes into existence: 27 28 and no enumeration of particular powers hereby granted shall be construed to impair any general grant of power herein contained, nor to limit any such grant to a power 29 or powers of the same class as those so enumerated. Such powers shall include, but 30 not be limited to, the power: 31 "X X X 32 "(i) To construct, acquire, own, operate and maintain electric subtransmission and 33 distribution lines along, upon, under and across publicly owned lands and public 34 thoroughfares, including, without limitation, all roads, highways, streets, alleys, 35 bridges and causeways. In the event of the need of such lands and thoroughfares for 36 the primary purpose of the government, the electric cooperative shall be properly 37 compensated; 38 "(i-1) To construct, acquire, own, operate and maintain generating facilities within its 39 franchise area. In pursuance thereof, where an electric cooperative participates in a 40 bid on an existing NPC-SPUG generating facility, its qualified bid shall be given 41 preference m case of a tie: Provided, however, That in cases where there is no other 42 qualified bidder, the lone bid shall remain as valid basis for the determination of the 43 final award subject to the following conditions: 44

- 1 "(a) bid offer is not lower than the valuation of the assets using Commission on Audit (COA) rules and regulations;
- 3 "(b) electric cooperative is prepared to fully take over the generation function of the area from the NPC-SPUG; and
- 5 "(c) electric cooperative submits its graduation program from the Universal Charge 6 for Missionary Electrification (UC-ME) subsidy.

Provided that the DOE and NEA shall promulgate the necessary policy issuances to implement this provision.

NOTE: THE SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS (a) to (e) iii, ARE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BY THE NEA ACT IRR TWG TO FORMULATE TWO (2) RULES COVERING (1) CONSTRUCTION and (2) ACQUISITION WHICH APPLIES TO AN EXISTING GENERATION FACILITY, SUBJECT TO THE BID CONDITIONS.

- (a) The engagement of an electric cooperative in the generation business shall ensure the quality of electricity service pursuant to the standards provided in the Grid Code and Distribution Code.
- (b) The generation business of an electric cooperative shall contribute to greater efficiency and lower cost of operations of an electric cooperative.
- (c) In order to have the financial flexibility and right structure to engage sustainably in the business of generation of electric power supply within its franchise area, an electric cooperative is encouraged to explore continuously and independently if it should be a non-stock cooperative, stock cooperative or stock corporation.
- (d) Electric cooperatives, which have contiguous franchise areas or share a common subtransmission line, may form a consortium or partnership in order to become financially and technical capable to engage in the business of generation of electricity supply.
- (e) If an electric cooperative offers to fully take over the generation function in an off-grid area through the purchase or lease of the generation facility of NPC-SPUG, its offer shall be valid if it meets the following conditions:
 - (i) The offer optimizes the valuation of the generation facility of NPC-SPUG using Commission on Audit (COA) rules and regulations.
 - (ii) An electric cooperative has the technical, financial and institutional capability to provide the full supply of electric power in the area as confirmed by NEA.
 - (iii) The offer commits a program that will realize the reduction in and graduation from the Universal Charge for Missionary Electrification subsidy.

Section 2. SCOPE.

All ECs getting power from the main grid and in the SPUG areas.

Section 3. GUIDELINES.

3.1 ECs shall be allowed to construct, acquire, own, operate and maintain generating facilities subject to approval of the ERC and the conduct of system impact study by the NGCP: Provided, That such generating facilities shall supply not more than 50 percent of their total demand upon the operation of said generating facility.

NOTE: NGCP SUGGEST TO LIMIT THE CAPACITY UP TO 20 MW FOR GRID CONNECTED ECs

- 3.2 The generating facilities shall be embedded within the EC distribution facilities and shall be primarily intended to supply the power requirement of the EC.
- 3.3 ECs may likewise endeavor to facilitate the construction of non-embedded generation to provide, but not limited to, service to isolated load within its franchise or develop Renewable Energy resource within its franchise.

NOTE: REVISIT POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH 3.1

- 3.4 ECs may be allowed to supply the additional electricity requirement of the nearby Distribution Utilities/ECs subject to applicable Rules and Regulations.
- 3.5 ECs shall be given the preference or the right of first refusal to develop, operate and maintain any available Indigenous and Renewable Energy resources in their respective area of operations without prejudice to entities that already has certificates to construct and operate within their franchise.

NOTE: REVISIT THE PROVISION TO CONSIDER:

- WHICH ENTITY PROVIDES THE APPROVAL?
- CONSISTENCY WITH THE RE ACT AND ITS IRR E.G. AWARDING OF SERVICE CONTRACTS
- 3.6 ECs serving Small Grid shall be afforded equal access to UCME vis-a-vis what the NPC-SPUG is receiving on its operation in the same area where ECs are operating.

NOTE: NO LEGAL BASIS

3.7 Island ECs shall be allowed the full take-over of the operation of NPC-SPUG without any restriction to capacity limitation versus the demand of the island orid.

COMMENT: NOT CONSISTENT WITH EPIRA AND DOE CIRCULAR 2004-01-001 COMMENT: THERE IS NO INCONSISTENCY WITH THE EPIRA PROVISIONS

PSP IS UNDER EPIRA WHILE EC GENERATION IS A NEW LAW

- 3.8 ECs shall be allowed to engage in a joint venture agreement with other eligible parties for the establishment of power generating facilities.
- 3.9 ECs that will own, operate and maintain renewable energy resources shall not lose any privilege and incentive in RA 9513, particularly the provisions of Chapter VII and its related provisions in the IRR of the said law.
- 3.10 The NEA shall provide the necessary financial, institutional and technical assistance to ECs that are capable and opt to construct, acquire, own, operate and/or maintain generating facilities.

to the requirements of the Philippine Grid Code, Philippine Distribution Code 2 and other relevant Codes and Rules. 3 Likewise, a copy of the results of the Distribution Impact Study made, if 4 applicable, shall be provided to the System Operator. 5 3.12 Any plans and activities of ECs to construct, acquire, own, operate a generating 6 facility shall be included in the annual submission of DDPs. 7 3.13 Monthly operation and performance of generating facilities within an EC shall 8 be reported to the NEA, DOE, and ERC every 7th day of the succeeding month. 9 10 11 12 **RULE VI. EC GOVERNANCE** 13 14 Section 1. LEGAL BASES. 15 16 The legal bases for this rule are Sections 10 and 11 of R.A. 10531. 17 18 Section 2. OBJECTIVE. 19 20 21 The independence of the Board of Directors and Officers of Electric Cooperatives .is vital to ensure the long-term business and economic viability of electric cooperatives, the 22 management, operations and strategic planning of electric cooperatives shall, as much as 23 24 practicable, be insulated from local politics. 25 Further, to ensure that the management and operations of electric cooperatives are carried 26 27 out with due regard to its economic viability, the NEA shall prescribe, pass upon and review the qualifications and disqualifications of individuals appointed or elected to electric 28 cooperatives and disqualify those found unfit. 29 30 Section 3. QUALIFICATIONS OF A DIRECTOR. 31 32 3.1 33 The Board of Directors is the collegial body composed of representatives elected from each district to promulgate policies, rules 34 35 and regulations necessary for the viable operation of the electric cooperative, and exercise its corporate power. 36 37 3.2 38 Pursuant to Section 11 of R.A. No. 10531, the following are the qualifications of the Board of Directors and Officers of an Electric Cooperative. A 39 candidate's integrity, experience, education, competence and probity shall be 40 considered in determining whether he/she shall be fit and proper to become a 41 director or officer of the electric cooperative. For this purpose, the minimum 42 qualifications of a director or officer of the electric cooperative shall be as 43 follows: 44 45 3.2.1 He or she is a Filipino citizen: 46 47

3.2.2 He or she is a graduate of a 4-year course;

3.11 Construction and operation of generating facilities within an EC shall be subject

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- 3.2.3 He or she should at least be twenty-one (21) years old and not over seventy (70) years old on the date of election;
- 3.2.4 He or she is of good moral character;
- 3.2.5 He or she is a member of the electric cooperative in good standing for the last five (5) years immediately preceding the election or appointment and shall continue to be a member in good standing during his or her incumbency;

A member of good standing shall mean that said member:

3.2.5.1 must have no unsettled or outstanding obligations to the cooperative during his membership in the cooperative whether personal of through commercial or industrial connections of which he or she is the owner/co-owner;

An unsettled or outstanding obligation is an account which has not been paid within seven (7) days after the due date. For incumbent member of the Board who will seek reelection, unsettled or outstanding obligation includes power bills, cash advances, disallowances (including NEA audit findings) and materials and equipment issuances. At any given time during his membership in the cooperative, he or she must be totally free of any unsettled or outstanding indebtedness and/or disallowances with the electric cooperative.

3.2.5.2 has not been apprehended for electric pilferage; and,

A mere apprehension of electric pilferage by the electric cooperative, even without conviction for such offense by any court, shall be a valid ground for disqualification. The word "apprehension" should be taken in the strict context as used in Republic Act No. 7832, otherwise known as "Anti-Electricity and Electric Transmission Lines or Materials Pilferage Act of 1994", which means that a person is caught *flagrante delicto* for violating the provision of said Act;

3.2.5.3 has not been removed for cause as director or an employee from any electric cooperative;

In general, removal or termination of service from the electric cooperative is caused by a grave offense or violation/s of policies, rules and regulations. A former director or employee with a record of termination/removal for cause from public office or for just cause as defined in Article 282 of the Labor Code as amended, shall not be qualified to be elected or appointed as director of an Electric Cooperative.

1 2 3 4	3.2.6 He or she is an actual resident and consumer in the district that he or she seeks to represent for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the election; and
5 6 7 8	3.2.7 He or she has attended at least two (2) Annual General Membership Assemblies (AGMA) for the last five (5) years immediately preceding the election or appointment.
9 10	Section 4. DISQUALIFICATION OF A DIRECTOR.
11 12 13 14	A person shall be ineligible to be elected or be appointed as member of the board of directors or officers electric cooperative:
15 16 17	4.1 Such person or his or her spouse holds any public office;
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	For this purpose, public office refers to any position which requires the performance of public functions / duties of government by virtue of direct provision of law, popular election, or appointment by competent authority. Appointive office shall mean co-terminus position with the appointing authority;
25 26 27	4.2 Such person or his or her spouse has been a candidate in the last preceding local or national elections;
28 29 30	4.3 Such person has been convicted by final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude;
31 32 33 34 35	4.4 Such person has been terminated from public office/government employment or private employment for just cause as defined in Article 282 of the Labor Code; For this purpose, termination from public office shall mean removal.
36 37 38 39 40	Such person is related to any member of the electric cooperative Board of Directors, Department Manager, NEA-appointed Project Supervisor/Acting General Manager and its equivalent or higher position within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity; and,
41 42 43 44 45 46	4.5 Such person is employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or electrical hardware to the cooperative or doing business with the cooperative, including the use or rental of poles.

Doing business refers to the transactions related to the 1 core or main line of business of the electric cooperative. 2 3 4 5 Section 5. SUSPENSION OR REMOVAL OF A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER. 6 7 5.1 The NEA may, after due notice to the Board of Directors and Officers of 8 9 the electric cooperative, disqualify, suspend or remove any Director or Officer, who commits any act which renders him or her unfit for the 10 position in accordance with the standards of NEA: 11 12 13 5.2An EC director, in order to continue as such director, must continue to possess all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications of a 14 director throughout his/her term or tenure of office; and, 15 16 17 5.3 The proceedings herein may be undertaken motu proprio or through a complaint initiated against the Director or Officer. 18 19 20 RULE VII. REGISTRATION OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, ITS EFFECTS AND 21 **INCENTIVES** 22 23 Section 1. LEGAL BASES. 24 25 The legal bases for this rule are Sections 12 and 13 of R.A. 10531. 26 "Sec. 12. Section 32 of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is 27 hereby further amended to read as follows:" 28 29 "SEC. 32. Registration of All Electric Cooperatives. - All electric 30 cooperatives may choose to remain as a non-stock, non-profit 31 cooperative or convert into and register as: (a) a stock cooperative 32 under the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA); or (b) a stock 33 corporation under the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), in 34 accordance with the guidelines to be included in the Implementing 35 36 Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act. 37 "Such choice shall carry with it the attendant requirements of 38 compliance with the laws and regulatory guidelines governing the 39 respective government agencies having jurisdiction over their 40 registration. 41 42 "Regardless of the choice made, the NEA shall have the 43 authority over electric cooperatives, whether stock or non-stock, to 44 require the submission of reportorial requirements as may be 45 necessary relative to their operations as electric distribution utilities, 46 including but not limited to: 47

"(a) monthly Financial and Statistical Report (MFSR);

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1	"(b) monthly separate MFSR, Monthly Engineering Report
2	(MER) and barangay and sitio electrification report
3	for electric cooperatives on grid with isolated area/s
4	served by NPC-SPUG;
5	"(c) monthly status of barangay and sitio energization
6	and house connections;
7	"(d) monthly Institutional Services Department (ISD)
8	report;
9	"(e) monthly Performance Standard Monitoring Report
10	(PSMR);
11	"(f) monthly summary of complaints received and acted
12	upon;
13	"(g) monthly report on compliance with the Grid and
14	Distribution Code;
15	"(h) Monthly Engineering Report (MER);
16	"(i) quarterly report on power supply contracts;
17	"(j) annual work plan;
18	"(k) annual Distribution Development Plan (DDP);
19	"(I) five (5)-year investment plan submitted annually;
20	"(m) annual Cash Operating Budget (COB);
21	"(n) audited financial statements;
22	"(0) annual Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) or
23	"Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA);
24	"(p) copy of Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) and Operating
25	Expenditure (OPEX) plans.
26	
27	"Likewise, the supervisory and oversight functions of the NEA,
28	as may be detailed in this act and its IRR, shall be applicable to both
29	stock and non-stock cooperatives.
30	
31	"Electric cooperatives which register with the CDA shall continue
32	to enjoy the benefits under this Act.
33	"-
34	"Existing electric cooperatives may likewise opt to register as
35	stock corporations with the Securities and Exchange Commission
36	(SEC): Provided, however, That electric cooperatives registered with
37	the SEC shall no longer enjoy the incentives provided for in this Act.
38	
39	"Despite the registration of the electric cooperatives under the
40	CDA or SEC, the NEA shall retain its supervisory and disciplinary
41	power over them in the conduct of its operation as electric distribution
42	utilities."
43	
44	
45	"Sec. 13. A new Section, to be designated as Section 32-A, of
46	Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended, is hereby inserted to read as
47	follows:"

"SEC. 32-A. *Incentives of Electric Cooperatives.-* Consistent with the declared policy of this Act, electric cooperatives which comply with the financial and operational standards set by the NEA shall enjoy the following incentives:

- "(a) To be entitled to congressional allocations, grants, subsidies and other financial assistance for rural electrification;
- "(b) To receive all subsidies, grants, and other assistance which shall form part of the donated capital and funds of the electric cooperatives, and as such, it shall not be sold, traded nor divided into share holdings at any time. These donated capital and funds shall be appraised and valued for the sole purpose of determining the equity participation of the members; *provided*, that in case of dissolution or conversion of the electric cooperative, said donated capital and funds shall be subject to escheat; and
- "(c) To avail of the preferential rights granted to cooperatives under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code", and other related laws.

"As a further incentive, the NEA may prioritize the grant of incentives in favor of electric cooperatives that are managed effectively and efficiently and comply consistently with its mandates and directives."

Section 2. SCOPE.

This rule shall be applicable to all electric cooperatives which may chose to convert into and register as non-stock, non-profit cooperative or convert into and register as: (a) a stock cooperative under the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA); or (b) a stock corporation under the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Section 3. CONVERSION GUIDELINES.

Information Education Campaign (IEC). (a) Before any referendum for conversion of an EC to stock cooperative or stock corporation, the Board of Directors and the Management of the EC, shall ensure to develop and jointly undertake in coordination of the NEA. CDA. SEC. PHILFECO and PHILRECA, а massive informationeducation campaign in the district level within the EC's franchise area, in order to educate, inform the memberconsumers of the advantages and disadvantages as well as the benefits and limitations of a non stock EC vis-a-vis an EC converted into either stock cooperative In this information-education Corporation. campaign.

member-consumers should understand their rights, duties and obligation once their EC converted to stock cooperative or Stock Corporation as compared to an EC that chooses to remain non stock under the P.D. 269 as amended.

The NEA, CDA, SEC, PHILFECO and PHILRECA shall jointly develop and a massive information and education campaign in the district level within the ECs, coverage area before any referendum for the electric cooperative to convert to a stock is made.

- (b) **Membership Meetings.** At any single time, membership meetings can take the form of a General Assembly or a District Meeting.
- (c) Methods of Conducts of Membership Meeting and Referendum. For the purpose of consulting with the bona fide member-consumers on whether to convert or not, the series of District Meetings shall be undertaken in either of the two ways:
 - (1) Simultaneously wherein meetings are held on the same day at various venues (barangay); or
 - (2) Sequentially wherein meetings are held one after the other in different venues (barangays).
- (d) Notice of Membership Meeting. At least 20 days before the scheduled meeting, all the bona fide member-consumers in the district shall be notified through print and broadcast media and other means of communication. In addition, the complete information on the said meeting will be mailed or delivered to the addresses of the member-consumers. Likewise, the said notice shall be posted in strategic places within the district.
- (e) Master list of Voters. A sanitized Master list of bona fide member-consumers entitled to vote in each district shall be prepared by the EC Institutional Services Department or its equivalent department. Such list shall be the basis for determining the attendance or turn out of voters in each meeting held, whether simultaneous or sequential.
- (f) Required Number of Votes for Conversion. The approval of at least a simple majority, or fifty percentum (50%) plus one (1), of all members entitle to vote of the EC, shall be considered a valid decision for conversion.

- (g) **Voting System.** Each bona fide member-consumer shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The voting shall be done through secret balloting, and no proxy voting shall be allowed.
- (h) Over-all Decision. The final decision on the issue on conversion, on whether or not the coop will convert, will be based on the majority decision as called from the result of the general assembly, or the cumulative results of the district assembly meetings, as the case may be. Provided that such conduct of referendum for referendum may only be conducted ten (10) years from the last conducted referendum.

Section 4. CONVERSION REQUIREMENTS

 In addition to the provisions of RA No. 9520 and Batas Pambansa Blg. 128, the ECs must comply with the provisions of Sec. 7 (c) (i) of the IRR on RA 9136: "The conversion and registration of ECs shall be implemented in the following manner: (i) ECs shall, upon approval of a simple majority of the required number of turnout of voters as provided in the Guidelines in the Conduct of Referendum (Guidelines), in a referendum conducted for such purpose, be converted into a Stock Cooperative or Stock Corporation and thereafter shall be governed by the Cooperative Code of the Philippines or the Corporation Code, as the case may be. xxx"

Section 5. PROCEDURE/MECHANICS.

- (a) The Board of Directors shall pass a Board Resolution scheduling the district/s, date/s, venue/s and time of the assembly/meetings. Likewise, the Board of Directors shall appropriate the corresponding budget for the program/activities.
- (b) The concerned departments, spearheaded by the ISD Institutional Services Department of the coop shall prepare and execute the requirements set under the said resolution.
- (c) In not less than twenty five (25) days before the General Assembly or District Meetings, the Institutional Services Department or its equivalent department shall prepare the Sanitized Master list of Voters in alphabetical order and classified according to barangays to facilitate registration and voting; and;
- (d) The Board Member of the concerned District shall be responsible for ensuring the success of the assembly/referendum/meeting in the said district. Likewise, he shall preside in the district assembly meeting/s.

- (e) Determination of Attendance Only the bona fide member-consumers whose names are listed in the sanitized master list of voters prepared by the cooperative shall be allowed to vote.
 (f) Where meetings are held simultaneously (meetings held on the same day at various venues/barangays), the total number of votes shall be determined on a cumulative basis.
 - (g) Where meetings are held sequentially (meetings held one after the other in different days in different venues/barangays), the same procedure shall be followed.
 - (h) For all the meetings conducted regardless of the Procedure/Mechanics applied, the Presiding Officer shall introduce and present to the assembly the issues related to conversion, such as the following:
 - (1) Historical profile of the coop;
 - (2) The advantages/disadvantages of each of the three options;
 - (3) Open Forum:

- (4) Casting of votes;
- (5) Declaration of the results of voting by the Presiding Officer;
- (6) Adjournment.
- (i) Documentation
 - (1) Preparation of the minutes of meeting indicating the highlights, particularly the over-all decision of the bonafide member-consumers whether to convert or not.
 - (2) Regardless of the results of the voting, a Certificate of Membership Decision to convert or not, indicating the over-all decisions of the bona fide member-consumers of the EC and certifying the truthfulness and veracity of the statements therein, shall be executed and attested on behalf of the EC by its Board President or Board Vice-President.

Section 6. SUBMISSION OF REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS.

Regardless of the choice made, the electric cooperatives, whether stock or nonstock, shall comply with the reportorial requirements of NEA as may be necessary relative to their operations as electric distribution utilities, including but not limited to:

- a. Monthly financial and statistical reports (MFSR);
- Monthly separate MFSR, monthly engineering report (MER) and barangay and sitio electrification report for electric cooperatives on grid with isolated areas served by NPC -SPUG;

- c. Monthly status of barangay and sitio energization and house connections
 - d. Monthly institutional services department (ISD) report
 - e. Monthly performance standard monitoring report (PSMR)
 - f. Monthly summary of complaints received and acted upon
 - g. Monthly report on compliance with the Grid and Distribution Code:
 - h. Quarterly report on power supply contracts;
 - i. Annual work plan;

- i. Annual distribution development plan (DDP);
- k. 5-year investment plan submitted annually;
 - I. Annual cash operating budget (COB);
 - m. Audited financial statements;
 - n. Annual collective bargaining agreement (CBA) or Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA);
 - copy of capital expenditure (CAPEX) and operating expenditure (OPEX) plans;

For this purpose, NEA shall prepare monthly and quarterly assessment reports on the abovementioned information. Said reports shall be submitted by NEA to the DOE for inclusion to the EPIRA Implementation Status Report and Power Development Program.

RULE VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

In order to facilitate the exercise of oversight powers of the Joint Congressional Power Commision (JCPC) over the implementation of the National Electrification Administration Reform Act of 2013, the Board of Administrators shall submit to the JCPC a semi-annual report on the initiatives and activities on rural electrification, including the supervision of NEA over the electric cooperatives of the performance of their franchise obligation. The report will be separate from but consistent with the semi-annual report on the implementation of Republic Act No. 9136, Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, that Department of Energy submits to the JCPC on or before the last week of April and October of each year.

Section 2. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

Should any provision in these rules be subsequently declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity or the legality of the other provisions.

Section 3. . EFFECTIVITY

These Rules shall take effect on the fifteenth (15th) day from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

48 _____2013, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.