



Case Reference No: U-0011-14

Date: June 24, 2014

Commission Order adopting the Small Water Suppliers (Registration) Rules 2014

Under the Utilities Regulatory Authority Act (**URA Act**) the Utilities Regulatory Authority (**URA**) is a corporate body authorized to regulate all entities supplying water services for end-use consumption in Vanuatu for a price. The URA is mandated to ensure the provision of safe, reliable and affordable water services including set maximum price charged to consumers.

Currently Union Electrique Du Vanuatu Limited (**Unelco**) is responsible for supplying water in Port Vila and its surrounding areas pursuant to the Contract for the Management and Operation of the Water Supply Service in Port Vila. The Public Works Department (**PWD**) is responsible for supplying water in provincial Government centres including Luganville. In addition, pursuant to Section 11(1)(a) of the Water Resources Management Act (**WRMA**), persons (individuals, public or private entities) may supply water to other persons for consumption in specific areas. Such service providers supplying water to persons for a price (monetary or otherwise) are subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the URA.

In order to effectively regulate such service providers to ensure that the water supplied is safe, reliable and appropriately priced, it is necessary that the URA has an up-to-date record of such providers.

Findings and Order:

The Commission hereby establishes the following Small Water Suppliers (Registration) Rules 2014 (**Rules**):

1. **Applicability:** The Rules apply to any person (individual, public or private entity) that:
 - (a) is supplying water to another person for end-use consumption in Vanuatu for a price, prior to the coming into effect of the Rules, or
 - (b) proposes to supply and charge for water to another person for end-use consumption in Vanuatu and has obtained approval under Section 11(1)(a) of the WRMA (**WRMA Approval**)

These are referred to as a '**Small Water Supplier**'.

Note: For the purposes of the Rules, the Small Water Suppliers are defined as those other than Unelco and PWD.

2. **Registration:**

- 2.1 A Small Water Supplier supplying water to a consumer shall register with the URA within 30 (thirty) days of the Rules coming into effect (by July 24, 2014) by providing the information required in accordance with Rule 3 below.
- 2.2 A Small Water Supplier that obtains a WRMA Approval, after the Rules come into effect, to supply water to another person for a price shall register with the URA within 30 (thirty) days of receiving the WRMA Approval by providing the information required in accordance with Rule 3 below.
3. **Submission of information:** The Small Water Supplier shall provide the following information to URA by submitting a prescribed registration form, available on the URA website:
- (a) Name, address, telephone and email id of the supplying person (individual or entity);
 - (b) Description of the area served or expected to be served;
 - (c) Copy of the authorization received from the appropriate authority to supply water services;
 - (d) Number of customers and meters by category served or estimated to be served: domestic, commercial and industrial;
 - (e) Source or catchment of water supply;
 - (f) Description of water treatment facility and quality testing program; and
 - (g) Price charged, vatu/m³, for each service category.
4. **Updating information:** In the event of any change in the information provided to the URA (in case of Rule 3(d), inform of any significant change), the Small Water Supplier shall inform the URA in writing promptly but no later than 30 (thirty) days of the change.
5. **Contact information of URA:** The Small Water Supplier shall submit the requisite information to the URA in person during business hours or via email or mail. Communication shall be addressed to the Water Utilities Registry, the URA; the email and office addresses are provided on URA's website (www.ura.gov.vu).
6. **Registration number and maintenance of record by the URA:** The URA shall maintain a record of the Small Water Suppliers and assign a Registration Number to each Small Water Supplier for future reference.
7. **Non-compliance:** Failure to comply with the Rules, including providing misleading or incomplete information, is an offence and subject to penalty under the URA Act.
8. **Effective Date:** The Rules come into effect immediately.

Chairman



Johnson Naviti Matarulapa Marakipule



CEO and Commissioner



Hasso C. Bhatia, PhD