

GOUVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU VANUATU

Autorité de Régulation des Services Publics
Ministère des Finances et de la Gestion Economique

B.P. 9093
Port Vila
VANUATU

Téléphone : (678) 29795 / 23335 / 23521
Télécopie : (678) 27426



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

Utilities Regulatory Authority
Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

PMB 9093
Port Vila
VANUATU

Tel: (678) 29795 / 23335 / 23521
Fax: (678) 27426

Website: www.ura.gov.vu

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The URA releases its Electricity Prepayment Meter System Position Paper for consultation

The Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority) is pleased to announce the publication of its Electricity Prepayment Meter System Position Paper March 2012.

The paper seeks comments on issues raised by the Authority that include among other things:

- UNELCO's implementation of the existing prepayment tariff and rules applied in Tanna and Malekula;
- UNELCO's implementation of a tranche based tariff and the tariff adjustments as part of a prepayment meter system, and how it would affect customer's ability to manage their budget;
- the upfront costs of prepayment meters and their affordability, compared to conventional postpayment meters;
- the target group proposed for the rollout of the prepayment meter system and potential costs and benefits;
- access to uninterrupted supply of electricity (for example safeguards, resale points, minimum charges);
- requirements for ease-of-use of the meter and assessment of beneficial features that may be made available under a prepayment meter system;
- the impact prepayment meter systems may have on energy conservation and management;
- the Authority's proposal to survey customers participating in the ongoing pilot trial; and
- customers' understanding of differences between electricity prepayment systems and prepaid mobile phones.

Submissions can be made until 30 April 2012 and can be made in person at the office of the Utilities Regulatory Authority on the ground floor of the VNPF Building Port Vila, by regular mail to this address: Electricity Prepayment Meter System Position Paper, Utilities Regulatory Authority, PMB 9093, Port Vila VANUATU. Submissions may also be sent by email to nheschmat@ura.gov.vu or by calling on (678) 23335.

Submissions received by the Authority will be published on its website. Any confidential or commercially sensitive information should be clearly marked as such and be preferably included as a separate attachment to the public submission.

Copies of the Prepayment Meter System Position Paper are now available to the general public from the Authority's office and on the home page of the URA's website www.ura.gov.vu.

Enquiries can be directed to Mr. Nima Heschmat on (678) 23335.

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About the Utilities Regulatory Authority

The URA was set up under the *Utilities Regulatory Authority Act No. 11 of 2007*. The Authority acts independently of the Government and its primary purpose is to increase access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity and water services, and to protect the long-term interests of consumers throughout Vanuatu. In the electricity sector, the Authority monitors the concessions operated by UNELCO in Malekula, Port Vila and Tanna; and Vanuatu Utilities and Infrastructure Ltd (VUI) in Luganville. In addition, the Authority manages consumer disputes and advises the Government on matters related to electricity and water. It also reviews tariffs under the rules of the Concessions Agreements and relevant legislation.

Contact Information

Website: www.ura.gov.vu

Phone: (678) 23335

Fax: (678) 27426

Address: Vanuatu National Provident Fund Building, Ground Floor

Postal address: PMB 9093 Port Vila VANUATU