

URA – Final decision on Regulatory Reporting Requirements for electricity utilities

The regulator for water and electricity services in Vanuatu, the Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA), has released its final decision on “Regulatory Reporting Requirements” for electricity utilities. Initiated in March 2012, the review of accounting and technical reports produced by electricity utilities was one of the highlight projects in the URA’s work plan.

According to Chairman Johnson Naviti, “One of the key challenges in the regulation of electricity services in Vanuatu is capturing the right information in a timely manner, in order to assess the performance of service providers, produce useful analysis to support energy-related policy decisions, and develop an appropriate regulatory framework.”

With the aim of harmonising report formats for regulatory purposes, existing templates and material have been reviewed and redesigned. Additional templates and guidelines have been drafted in order to improve the reliability and transparency of the data captured along the process of generation and supply of electricity to customers. These will help to measure and assess the performance of service providers according to their respective contracts with the Government and customer agreements.

Looking to the future of the energy market and the needs for additional information to be monitored, the URA has defined a review process to adapt the requirements for new generation technologies and new arrangements such as feed-in agreements or independent generation companies.

The URA invites all interested parties to find more about the final decision on regulatory reporting requirements for electricity utilities by contacting them on 23335 or at the ground floor of the VNPF building. The report can also be downloaded from the URA’s website at: www.ura.gov.vu

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.

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