

[ERB RESOLUTION NO. 95-21, August 03, 1995]

**STANDARD RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE
OPERATION OF ELECTRICAL POWER SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations governing the operation of public services, particularly the electric power services are embodied in Revised Order No. 1 which was approved by the then Public Service Commission (this Board's predecessor office) way back on November 27, 1941;

WHEREAS, economic conditions have, since that time, changed, not to mention the technological developments that have occurred in the electric power industry; WHEREAS, this Board has considered the advisability of revising the said rules and regulations to make them more responsive to current conditions and needs in the said industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, AS THIS BOARD HEREBY RESOLVES, to amend Revised Order No. 1, particularly the rules and regulations therein pertaining to the operation of electric power services, and to prescribe, AS THIS BOARD HEREBY PRESCRIBES, the following:

SECTION 1. Title — This Resolution shall be known as the Standard Rules and Regulations Governing the Operation of Electrical Power Services.

SECTION 2. Applicability — The following rules and regulations shall cover all electric power utilities under the supervision, control and jurisdiction of the Energy Regulatory Board, as applicable.

The term "electric utility" shall include every person, whether natural or juridical, their lessees, trustees or receivers as well as municipalities, provinces and cities engaged in the operation of electric power service in the Philippines, *for hire or compensation*, with general or limited clientele, whether permanent or occasional.

SECTION 3. Observance — Every electric power utility shall observe and comply strictly with all the terms and conditions prescribed in its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), rules and regulations memoranda, orders and circulars of the Board, the laws of the Philippines, provincial resolutions, city or municipal ordinances and any other rules or regulations issued by any competent authority, and in case of a grantee of franchise, with the terms and conditions thereof.

SECTION 4. Service — Every electric power utility under the supervision, control, and jurisdiction of the Board shall operate, maintain, and provide safe, reliable, adequate, efficient and continuous electric service.

SECTION 5. Information and Assistance to Customers — Every electric utility shall, upon request, give its customers, copy furnished ERB, all information and assistance

pertaining to its service in order to provide said customers reliable, efficient and economical service.

SECTION 6. Service Connection — It shall be mandatory for the electric utility to extend electric service after customer's full compliance with the electric utility's requirements.

The connection of the electric utility's service lines and meters with the customer's premises shall be free of charge. The point of service connection shall be designated upon agreement by the electric utility and the consumer.

The relationship of the electric utility and the consumers shall be governed by an application/service contract containing the terms and conditions duly approved by the Board.

It shall be unlawful for any electric utility to give undue preference or make unjust discrimination in its service.

SECTION 7. Commercial or Business Name — No electric utility shall adopt a commercial or business name without first securing the approval of the Board.

SECTION 8. Authorized Equipment — Every electric utility shall install in its plant only the generating or producing units(s) and/or distribution equipment authorized in its CPCN or those that may be subsequently authorized by the Board.

No electric utility shall increase, substitute or withdraw from the service any of its authorized equipment and/or machinery without prior authority from the Board.

SECTION 9. Fictitious Registration of Equipment — It shall be unlawful for any electric utility to cause, allow or in any other manner help or consent to the registration in its name, fictitiously, surreptitiously or otherwise of any equipment belonging to another person and/or to cause, allow or in any other manner, help or consent to the operation of said equipment under its CPCN.

SECTION 10. Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Electric Plant. — The electric plant which includes;

- a. Power Plant
- b. Transmission and Distribution Lines
- c. Substations
- d. Overhead system, poles, lines, transformers, etc.
- e. Underground systems, including power and communication cable manholes, conduits, etc.
- f. Street Lighting System
- g. Service wires and attachments
- h. Meters and instruments
- i. Control and communication facilities (SCADA)

shall be constructed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Philippine Electric Code and the rules and regulations that may be issued by the Board in relation thereto. In the absence of applicable provisions in the Philippine Electrical Code, the provisions of the U.S. Bureau of Standard National Electrical Safety Code shall apply.

SECTION 11. Equipment at Generating Station — Every electric utility shall install and maintain at its generating station(s) the following:

1. Watthour meter(s) to record the kilowatt-hours generated by each generating station.
2. Watthour meter(s) to record the kilowatt-hours purchased from other sources.
3. Indicating or graphic wattmeters to indicate or record the load in kilowatts of each generating unit at any particular time.
4. Either indicating or graphic wattmeters to indicate or record the load in kilowatts at any particular time of the territory served.
5. Voltmeter(s) to indicate the potentials of the buses. The voltmeter(s) installed in Alternating Current (AC) stations shall be connected as to indicate the potential of each phase.
6. Ammeter(s) to indicate the current in each generating unit and each feeder. The ammeter(s) installed at AC stations shall be so connected as to indicate the current in each phase.
7. Frequency meter(s) to indicate the frequency in AC stations of more than 100 kw capacity.
8. Power factor meter or VAR meter for AC stations with generating units of over 100 KVA capacity each.
9. Automatic voltage regulator for central stations of 251 KW capacity or more.
10. Overcurrent relay, under/over voltage relay, synchronizing device, reverse power relay and under/over frequency relay.
11. And other instruments, safety devices and controls that may be necessary to determine the operating characteristics and for voltage control and safe operation of the plant.

SECTION 12. Equipment at Substations — Every electric utility taking power from a transmission line shall install in its authorized territory at the receiving end:

1. Watthour meter(s) to register the total kilowatthours delivered.
2. Indicating or graphic wattmeter or meters to indicate or record the load.
3. Voltmeter(s) to indicate the potentials of each phase of the circuit(s) feeding the territory.
4. Ammeter(s) to indicate the current in each phase of the circuit(s).
5. And other instruments, safety control and devices that may be necessary to determine the demand characteristics and voltage control in the authorized territory.

SECTION 13. Testing of Station and Substation Meters — All station and substation meters and instruments used for billing purposes shall be inspected by the authorized representative of the Board at least once every two years for testing purposes. Each instrument shall at all times be accompanied by a test report issued

by the Board showing the findings and corrections made at various readings and the date of last calibration.

SECTION 14. Watthour Meter Standard — Every electric utility furnishing metered electric service shall maintain, to check customer's watthour meter, at least one watthour meter standard which shall be calibrated by the Board at least once a year.

SECTION 15. Portable Indicating and Recording Voltmeters — Every electric utility shall provide itself with at least one portable indicating voltmeter. Utilities serving more than 500 customers is further required to have at least one recording voltmeter which shall be placed in continuous service at its power plant or office.

SECTION 16. a) Nominal Voltage and Voltage Regulation — Every electric utility shall adopt and file with this Board a standard voltage as its nominal voltage for its entire secondary systems. The voltage across the main service entrance switch, as installed for each customer or group of customers, shall be maintained as follows:

1. For service rendered under a lighting contract or primarily for lighting purposes, between sunset and 11:00 o'clock p.m., the variation in voltage shall not be more than five percent (5%) plus or minus of the nominal voltage adopted. The voltage regulation shall not exceed 6%.
2. For service rendered under a power contract or primarily for power purposes, the voltage variation shall not exceed ten percent (10%) above or below the nominal voltage at any time when the service is furnished.
3. A greater variation of voltage than that specified above may be allowed in case of emergency service or in a certain area where the customers are widely scattered and the business done does not, in the judgment of the Board, justify close voltage regulation.

b. Exceptions — Variations in voltage in excess of those specified, caused (1) by the operation of power apparatus on customer's premises which necessarily requires large starting current, (2) by the action of the elements, and (3) infrequent and unavoidable fluctuations of short duration due to station operation, shall not be considered a violation of this section.

SECTION 17. Standard Frequency and Allowable Variation — Every electric utility supplying AC shall adopt the standard frequency of sixty (60) Hertz and shall maintain said frequency reasonably constant so that its variation shall not exceed one (1) Hertz above or below the standard frequency, at all times, infrequent and unavoidable fluctuations of short duration due to station operation or caused by the elements or by frequency variation caused by source(s) not within the control of the utility shall not be considered a violation of this section.

SECTION 18. Log Book — (a) Every electric utility shall keep a log book in its generating stations and shall record therein:

1. Time of starting and stopping of each generating unit.
2. Time of switching on and off of each feeder.
3. Daily reading of watthour meter.

4. At least quarter hourly reading of wattmeters, voltmeters and ammeters during the three consecutive hours of heavy load each day, and at least hourly readings during the remainder of the day; also the time and magnitude of station peak load each day.

5. Interruptions of service, indicating the time, duration, extent, and cause of each interruptions.

6. The daily consumption of lubrication oil and fuel (bunker fuel oil; special fuel oil; ADO etc.) Fuel waste shall likewise be indicated in the logbook.

b. Every electric utility taking power from a transmission line shall keep a log book at its receiving end (substation) showing:

1. Time of switching on and off of each feeder.

2. Daily readings of watthour meter(s) to show kilowatthours delivered.

3. At least quarter-hourly reading of load during the three consecutive hours or heaviest load each day, and at least hourly readings during the remainder of the day; also the time and magnitude of maximum demand.

4. At least quarter-hourly readings of the voltmeters and ammeters of each feeder during the three consecutive hours of heavy demand each day and at least hourly readings during the remainder of the day.

5. Interruptions of service, indicating the time, duration, extent, and cause of each interruption.

c. Log book shall be signed by the person in charge and shall not be removed from the switchboard site or room.

SECTION 19. Poles, Sag of Wires — No pole located or near a public place shall have a one-way sweep exceeding three percent (3%) of its total length and all horizontal wires attached to it shall be pulled up so that their sag shall not be greater than those allowed by the Philippine Electrical Code (three percent (3%) of the distance between poles).

SECTION 20. Identification of Poles, Tower, etc., — Poles, towers, structures and transformers shall be marked and numbered by the electric utility to facilitate identification.

SECTION 21. Advice to Customers on Rates Applicable — A copy of the rate schedule and the terms and conditions of service shall be furnished to the new consumers. Existing customers shall be informed of any changes in new rates through print/media. Where there are two or more authorized schedules of rates applicable to a customer's conditions, the electric utility should accordingly advise in writing said customer and apply the most advantageous schedule of rates.

SECTION 22. Deposits and Charges — A bill deposit from all residential and non-residential customers to guarantee payment of bills shall be required of new and/or additional service. The amount of the bill deposit shall be equivalent to the estimated monthly billing.

A meter deposit equivalent to one-half (1/2) of the current cost of the electric meter and other equipment appurtenant thereto shall be required.