

ADOPTING FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARKET (WESM) RULES

(Provisions for the Implementation of Independent Market Operator)

WHEREAS, Sections 30 and 37(f) of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) provides that the DOE, jointly with the electric power industry participants, shall establish the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) and formulate the detailed rules governing the operations thereof;

WHEREAS, on 28 June 2002, the DOE, with the endorsement of the electric power industry participants, promulgated the WESM Rules through Department Circular No. DC2002-06-003;

WHEREAS, any changes, amendments, and modifications to the WESM Rules including its Market Manuals shall be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 thereof;

WHEREAS, on 17 January 2018, the DOE promulgated Department Circular No. DC2018-01-002, which sets out the formation and structure of the Independent Market System (IMO), the resulting WESM governance structure and the manner by which transition to the IMO shall be accomplished;

WHEREAS, on 03 February 2018, the PEM Board approved the "The Transition to the Market Operator of the WESM Plan (TRANSITION PLAN)" which was ratified by majority of the members of the electric industry participants constituted by the PEMC on 06 February 2018;

WHEREAS, on even date, the DOE Secretary declared the joint endorsement of the TRANSITION PLAN by the DOE and the electric power industry participants as required by the EPIRA;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 6.4 of DC2018-01-0002 PEMC submitted the "Guidelines Governing the Nomination and Selection Process of the Board of Directors of the Independent Market Operator of the Philippines, Inc." which provided for a detailed nomination and selection process for the election of the initial and subsequent members of the Board of Directors of the IMO;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of DC2018-01-0002 provides that one of the conditions for transition is the amendment of the WESM Rules and Market Manuals to implement the policy directives on the transition to the IMO as provided therein;

WHEREAS, on 09 May 2018, the PEM Board-approved amendments to the WESM Rules were submitted to the DOE for final approval, in compliance with Chapter 8 of the WESM Rules;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to its authority under the EPIRA and the WESM Rules, the DOE hereby adopts, issues, and promulgates the following amendments to the WESM Rules and its Market Manuals:

Section 1. Amendments to the WESM Rules. The following provisions in the WESM Rules are hereby amended:

Foreword is amended to reflect the market structure as provided under DC2018-01-0002 whereby PEMC shall remain the governance arm of the WESM while market operations functions are transferred to PEMC. Thus:

"The Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) Rules establishes the basic rules, requirements and procedures that govern the operation of the Philippine electricity market. The WESM Rules identifies and recognizes and sets the responsibilities of the *Market Operator*, *System Operator*, WESM Participants, and the Governance Arm of the WESM. These groups shall comply with and are bound by all the provisions of the WESM Rules. The WESM Rules are intended to be complimentary with the Grid Code and Distribution Code, all of which are meant to ensure the development of an appropriate, equitable and transparent electricity market, along with a safe, reliable, and efficient operation of the power system.

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The WESM is the market where trading of electricity will be made.

The PEMC shall be the governing arm of the WESM and shall provide the policies and guidelines of the WESM contained in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Act, WESM Rules, and such other relevant laws, rules and regulations. PEM Board shall perform its functions as PEMC's board.

The IMO, which is a private, non-stock, nonprofit organization, shall administer the operations of the WESM in accordance with the EPIRA and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, the WESM Rules and Market Manuals, and such other relevant laws, rules and regulations.

For this purpose, all references to the Market Operator in these Rules shall be understood to refer to the IMO. Likewise, all references to the governing body of the WESM shall be understood to refer to the PEMC."

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Clause 1.1 under Introduction is amended to include the Market Operator and the criteria for its BOD in the Scope of Chapter 1 thereof as well as the renaming of the PEM Auditor to PEM Audit Committee. Thus -

"1.1 SCOPE OF CHAPTER 1

- (a) Purpose of the WESM Rules;
- (b) Parties bound by the WESM Rules;

- (c) Responsibilities of the *Market Operator*, composition, functions and selection of its Board of Directors;
- (d) Responsibilities of the System Operator,
- (e) Responsibilities of *PEMC* as governing body of the WESM, and the composition, functions and selection its Board of Directors, the *PEM Board*;
- (f) Responsibilities of the PEM Audit Committee,
- (g) Responsibilities of the Market Surveillance Committee;
- (h) Responsibilities of the Technical Committee;
- (i) Responsibilities of the Compliance Committee; and
- (j) Public consultation procedures."

Clause 1.2.2 (d) and (h) under Purpose and Application of Rules is amended to include resolution of disputes between the WESM Participants and PEMC. Thus:

"1.2.2 Purpose of the WESM Rules

The WESM Rules are promulgated to implement the provisions of the Act, its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other related laws as well as to:

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(d) Provide a cost-effective framework for resolution of disputes among WESM Participants, and between WESM Participants and the Market Operator, and between the WESM Participants and PEMC.

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(h) Provide the authority and governance framework of the *PEMC* and the *PEM Board*; and

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Clause 1.2.3.2 under The Regulatory Framework is amended to include the System Operator within the authority of the ERC for the enforcement of the rules and regulations governing the operations of the WESM. Thus:

"1.2.3.2 To ensure a greater supply and rational pricing of electricity, the *Act* provides the Energy Regulatory Commission (*ERC*) the authority to enforce the rules and regulations governing the operations of the electricity *spot market* and the activities of the *Market Operator, the System Operator and* other participants in the *spot market*."

Clause 1.2.4 under Purpose and Application of Rules is amended to include the Market Operator and System Operator from the coverage of the WESM Rules. Thus:

"1.2.4 Scope of Application

Pursuant to Section 30 of the Act, all *WESM Participants*, the *System Operator*, the *Market Operator*, and the Governance Arm of the WESM shall comply with the *WESM Rules* and applicable laws or regulations of the Philippines."

Clause 1.3.1.2 under Responsibilities of the Market Operator is amended to require the Market Operator to report to the ERC, DOE and PEMC noncompliance to the WESM Rules and Market Manuals by any WESM Member. Thus:

"1.3.1.2 In performing Clause 1.3.1.1 (d), the Market Operator shall:

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(c) Identify and report to the ERC, DOE, PCC and PEMC, any apparent or possible incidents of non-compliance with the *WESM Rules* and *Market Manuals* by any *WESM Member.*" including any suspected/potential incidents of anti-competitive behavior as defined by relevant laws.

Clause 1.3.1.5. under Responsibilities of the Market Operator is amended to incorporate the amended Clause 1.3.1.2, thus:

The MARKET OPERATOR shall provide a printed copy of the completed report referred to in clauses 1.3.1.2 and 1.3.1.4 to:

- (a) The DOE and the ERC;
- (b) The PEMC:
- (c) The PCC with respect to anti-competitive behavior;
- (d) WESM Members and interested entities on request

Clause 1.3.2.3 under Market Operator Performance is amended to include the bases to measure the performance of the Market Operator, thus:

- "1.3.2.3 In consultation with the *System Operator*, the *Market Operator*, the Governing Arm shall develop performance standards which monitor and provide an indication of the *Market Operator*'s performance with respect to:
- (a) The Market Operator's responsibilities under the Act, its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the WESM Rules, applicable provisions of the Philippine Grid Code (the Grid Code) and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations;
- (b) The performance standards, service level agreements, and other conditions set out in the operating agreement between the *Market Operator* and Governing Arm .;and
- (c) The achievement of the objectives of the Act and the WESM; and

- **Clause 1.3.2.4** under Market Operator Performance is amended to include the necessity of DOE approval to the Market Operator performance standards, thus:
- "1.3.2.4 The *Market Operator* performance standards shall be reviewed and approved by the *DOE*." (Added as per DOE DC. No. 2010-03-0004 dated 21 March 2010)
- Clause 1.3.2.5 under Market Operator Performance is amended to read as -
- "1.3.2.5 Every year, the PEMC shall publish a performance report setting out the results of its monitoring of the performance of the *Market Operator* in accordance with herein Clause."
- **New Clause 1.3.3** and its sub-clauses under Market Operator and System Operator are added to include the composition of the Board of Directors of the Market Operator in accordance with DC2018-01-0002 and [the Transition Plan or applicable policy parameters, as the case maybe]. Thus:
- "1.3.3 Composition of the Market Operator Board
- 1.3.3.1 The *Market Operator Board* shall be composed of at least 5 members who are independent from the electric power industry participants and from government.
- 1.3.3.2 A member of the *Market Operator Board* is deemed independent if that person:
- a) is not a director, officer, employee, contractor, consultant, agent, adviser, legal counsel, manager, or shareholder of a *WESM Member* or *System Operator*,
- b) is not a spouse or relative of a person within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, of a director, officer, manager, or shareholder of a WESM Member or System Operator,
- c) is not an officer, manager, director, shareholder, agent, employee, consultant, adviser, legal counsel, or contractor of, or is not a person directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries controls, is controlled by a company, affiliate, or any other entity related to or associated with a WESM Member or System Operator where:
- i. a related company or body is a parent, holding company, subsidiary or affiliate of the WESM Member or System Operator, and
- ii. an associate is a person who is a director, officer, manager or shareholder of that related company or entity or a relative of such a person within the fourth civil degree of affinity or consanguinity; and
- iii. an affiliate is any person that, alone or together with any other person, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries controls or is controlled by, or is under the common control with another person;
- The term shareholder shall exclude a member of an electric cooperative who is not involved in its operation and management and an end-user required to subscribe to or purchase a share in a distribution utility as an incident to the provision of service

by the same distribution utility, and provided the interest of the end-user is not more than the minimum required to avail of the distribution utility's service;

- d) is not an official or employee of the Philippine government, or its agencies or instrumentalities, but this will not apply to members of the academe in public schools and universities:
- e) has not been employed as an officer, or in a supervisory or managerial capacity, by any electric power industry participant, or a company within one (1) year prior to the nomination date; and
- f) agrees not to be employed and does not accept any employment with a company, affiliate, or any other entity related to or associated with a *WESM Member* or the *System Operator* within one (1) year after the person ceases to be a member of the *Market Operator Board*.
- 1.3.3.3 The *Market Operator Board* shall be selected and nominated in accordance with the guidelines provided by PEMC and approved by the DOE. Any existing guideline already provided by PEMC and approved by DOE shall be made applicable, unless amended by these rules.
- 13.3.3.4 The *Market Operator Board* shall be and elected in accordance with the *Market Operator* By-Laws, from the short list of nominees provided by PEMC and any validation process as may be performed by DOE., The *Market Operator* By-Laws and any amendment thereof shall be subject to the approval of the *DOE* prior to filing with the Security Exchange Commission.

Original Clause 1.3.3 under Market Operator and System Operator is renumbered to read as –

"1.3.4 Responsibilities of the System Operator

Under these Rules, the *System Operator* shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

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Clause 1.4 and its sub-clauses under Introduction are amended to read as -

"1.4 GOVERNANCE OF THE MARKET

The WESM governance is the process by which decisions are made and implemented within the market to ensure attainment of the WESM objectives under Clause 1.2.5. *PEMC* which is composed of electric power industry participants shall serve as the governing body of the WESM.

1.4.1 Philippine Electricity Market Corporation

- 1.4.1.1 The *WESM* shall be governed and its power and functions exercised by *PEMC*.
- 1.4.1.2 In addition to the powers of a corporation of under the Corporation Code and those stated therein, *PEMC* shall have all powers necessary, convenient and incidental to the performance of its functions and responsibilities in accordance with the *WESM Rules as the governance arm.*
- 1.4.1.3 In performing its functions, PEMC shall act in a reasonable, ethical and prudent manner, consistent with the *WESM* objectives, which to facilitate an efficient, competitive, transparent and reliable governing arm.
- 1.4.1.4 The PEMC or thru the PEMB as the case may be, may delegate any of its functions obligations and powers to a committed or other entity in circumstances when it is reasonable at its judgment to do so;
- 1.4.1.5 *PEMC* shall conduct its business activity in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and other applicable laws, rules and regulation The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the governing body, including amendments and revisions thereto are are subject to the approval of the *DOE* prior to filing with the Security Exchange Commission.
- 1.4.1.6 PEM Board is the governing board of the PEMC and shall have all the powers, functions and responsibilities as provided for by the Corporation Code:

Clause 1.4.2.4 under Composition of the PEM Board is amended to read as -

"The PEM Board shall consist of:

- (a) One (1) Director representing the *Market Operator*,
- (b) One (1) Director representing the System Operator;

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- (g) A Chairperson who is one of the Directors of the *PEM Board* and who is elected by a majority of all members of the *PEM Board*.
- (h) The *PEMC* President who is one of the four independent Directors and who is elected by a majority of all members of the *PEM Board*. The Chairperson and the *PEMC* President shall not be the same person.

All of the above representatives shall formally be elected in accordance with Clause 1.4.3."

Clause 1.4.2.7 under Composition of the PEM Board is amended to read as –

"For the purposes of this Clause 1.4.2, a person is deemed to be independent of the Philippine electric power industry and qualified to become an independent director if that person:

- (a) Is not a director, officer, employee, contractor, agent, adviser, consultant, legal counsel, manager, or shareholder of a WESM Member:
- (b) Is not a spouse or relative of a person, within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, of a director, officer, manager, shareholder of a *WESM Member:*
- (c) Is not an officer, manager, director or shareholder, agent, employee consultant, adviser, legal counsel or contractor of, or is not a person directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries controls, is controlled by a company, affiliate or any other entity related to or associated with a WESM Member, where:

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- (iii) An affiliate is any person that, alone or together with any other person, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries controls or is controlled by, or is under the common control with another person;
- (d) is not an official or employee of the Philippine government, or its agencies or instrumentalities, but this will not apply to members of the academe in public schools and universities;
- (e) Has not been employed as an officer, or any supervisory or managerial capacity, by any electric power industry participant, or a company within one year prior to the nomination date; and
- (f) Agrees not to be employed by and does not accept employment with any electric power industry participant, or a company or body related to or associated with a *WESM Member* (as defined in Clause 1.4.2.7 (c)) within one year after the person ceases to be a Director.

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Clause 1.4.3 and its sub-clauses under Governance of the Market are amended to read as –

- "1.4.3 Nomination and Election to the PEM Board
- 1.4.3.1 The *directors* of the *PEM Board* shall be nominated and elected in accordance with the *PEMC* By-Laws, provided that the required composition of the *PEM Board* as set out in Clause 1.4.2 is observed, having regard to the expertise necessary for the *PEM Board* to carry out its functions and any relevant provisions of the Corporation Code of the Philippines in relation to the election of directors. Except only for the representative of the *Market Operator*, no person can become a member of the *PEM Board* and the *Market Operator* Board of Directors at the same time.

1.4.3.2 With effect from the date on which the Independent *Market Operator* assumes the duties, functions and responsibilities of the *AGMO*, all *Directors*, the *PEMC* President, and the *Chairperson* of the PEM *Board* are to be elected in accordance with the required composition of the *PEM Board* and qualifications as set out in Clause 1.4.2."

Clause 1.4.4.1 under Voting Rights is amended to read as –

1.4.4.1 Unless, expressly stated herein, provisions of the Corporation Code shall apply, provided that:

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(b) Every decision of at least a majority of votes of *Directors* present shall be valid as a *PEM Board* act, except the election of the Chairperson and the President which requires vote of the majority of all the *Directors*. If voting is equal, the *Chairperson* has a casting vote.

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Clause 1.4.5 and its sub-clauses under Governance of the Market are amended to read as –

- "1.4.5 Obligations of the PEM Board
- 1.4.5.1 The PEM Board shall at all times:
 - (a) Protect the public interest and ensure the transparency and efficiency of the WESM;
 - (b) Fulfil its obligations under the WESM Rules;
 - (c) Act in a manner that is consistent with the WESM Rules;
 - (d) Perform all things reasonably necessary to contribute toward the achievement of the WESM and the Act's objectives;
 - (e) Duly consider and take into account the provisions of the WESM Rules, when deciding whether or not to approve any matter for which the PEM Board's approval or agreement is required under the WESM Rules:
 - (f) Cause notification to the ERC of all relevant information relating to any action it has taken in accordance with Clause 7.2 in relation to a breach by any WESM Member, the Market Operator or the System Operator; and
 - (g) Perform all other things that the PEM Board considers reasonably necessary to promote the WESM objectives and improve the operation of the WESM as well as the WESM Rules.
- 1.4.5.2 The PEMC, through the PEMB shall have the following powers and duties:

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(d) In conjunction with the Compliance Committee and the Enforcement and Compliance Office, enforce the WESM Rules and Market Manuals in accordance with Clause 7.2;

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Clause 1.4.6 under Governance Arm of the Market is amended to read as -

"1.4.6 Formation of Committees

The PEMC, through the PEMB, shall form committees and appoint qualified personnel who shall act as the following:

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- (d) A Rules Change Committee to assist the PEMC and/or PEMB and the DOE in relation to the revision and amendment of the WESM Rules in accordance with chapter 8, and the formulation, revision and amendment of market manuals, procedures and guidelines;
- (e) A Dispute Resolution Administrator to facilitate the resolution of the dispute between and/or among the parties within a specified period of time in accordance with the dispute resolution process under Clause 7.3; and
- (f) A Compliance Committee to monitor compliance to and oversee the investigation of breach of the WESM Rules and Market Manuals by WESM Members, the System Operator and the Market Operator, and to perform the functions set out in Clause 1.8

Clause 1.4.7 and its sub-clauses under Governance of the Market are amended to read as –

- "1.4.7.1 The PEMC, through the PEM Board shall establish such unit or units within PEMC which shall have the following powers and functions:
 - (a) a market assessment unit that will:
 - (i) Serve as the primary support unit of the Market Surveillance Committee:
 - (ii) Carry out market monitoring functions, including but not limited to, regularly collect and process market monitoring data and indices;
 - (iii) Carry out market assessment functions, and prepare periodic assessment reports on overall market performance and competitiveness;
 - (b) support units that will:

- (i) Provide technical and secretariat support to the other PEM Committees formed in accordance with Clause 1.4.6; and, accordingly provide such support and assistance as may be required and in a manner as deemed necessary by the respective Committee Chairmen; and
- (ii) Perform such other tasks as assigned by the PEMC and/or PEMB. the PEM Committees or the PEMC President.
- 1.4.7.2 The units that shall be established by the PEMC, through PEM Board pursuant to Clause 1.4.7.1 shall be composed of an adequate number of personnel with the appropriate knowledge, experience and qualifications necessary to carry out the functions stated in Clause 1.4.7.1."

Clause 1.4.8 under Governance of the Market is amended to read as -

"The PEMC, through the PEMB, shall create an Enforcement and Compliance Office which shall be headed by an Enforcement and Compliance Officer appointed in accordance with Clause 7.2.8.1.

The Enforcement and Compliance Office perform the following functions:

(a) Administer the enforcement and compliance processes in the WESM in accordance with Clause 7.2 and serve as a technical support unit of the PEM Board on matters concerning enforcement and compliance;

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(d) Serve as the primary support unit of the Compliance Committee."

New Clause 1.8 and its sub-clauses under Introduction are added to read as

- **"1.8 COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**
- 1.8.1 Appointment to the Compliance Committee
- 1.8.1.1 The PEMC, through the PEM Board, shall appoint persons to form a Compliance Committee in such number and with such skills and expertise, and on such terms and conditions, as the PEM Board reasonably deems to be appropriate, taking into consideration the nature of the obligations and functions of the Compliance Committee, as set out in Clause 1.8.2.
- 1.8.1.2 The members of the Compliance Committee shall be independent of the Philippine electric power industry and the Government.
- 1.8.2 Responsibilities of the Compliance Committee

The Compliance Committee shall from time to time as necessary and appropriate, or whenever the PEMC, through the PEMB directs:

- (a) Review reports of investigation of breaches of the WESM Rules and Market Manuals carried out by the Enforcement and Compliance Office and, based on the results of such investigation, decide on the outcomes of the investigation and recommend imposition of sanctions or penalties if warranted;
- (b) Review and monitor the compliance of ECO with the reportorial requirements pursuant to the WESM Rules, Market Manuals, and other applicable laws, rules, regulations, or issuances;
- (c) Review and monitor the compliance by the Market Operator and the System Operator with their obligations pursuant to the WESM Rules and Market Manuals, or any coordinating or operating agreements, or protocols which may be established governing the performance of their functions and obligations under the WESM Rules and Market Manuals.
- (d) Propose amendments to the WESM Rules or Market Manuals in accordance with chapter 8 with a view to:
 - (i) Improving the efficiency and the effectiveness of the operation of the WESM; and
 - (ii) Improving or enhancing the prospects for the achievement of the WESM objectives;
- (e) Assist the Rules Change Committee in relation to its assessment of proposals to amend the WESM Rules or Market Manuals under Chapter 8.

1.8.3 Transitory Provisions

Pending the creation of the *Compliance Committee* and the appointment of its members by the PEMC, through the PEMB, pursuant to Clause 1.8.1, the responsibilities set forth in Clause 1.8.2 shall be discharged by the Market Surveillance Committee."

(a) **Original Clause 1.8** and its sub-clauses under Introduction are renumbered and amended to read as –

"1.9 ENFORCEABILITY AND AMENDMENT OF THESE RULES

1.9.1 Enforceability

Unless otherwise provided in its other provisions, the WESM Rules are enforceable in accordance with Chapter 7.

1.9.2 Changes to the WESM Rules

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Original Clause 1.9 under Introduction is renumbered and amended to read as -

"1.10 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCEDURES

Where the WESM Rules identify matters that are subject to review or consultation in accordance with the public consultation procedures, the PEMC shall ensure that, as a minimum, the following procedures are followed:

- (a) The *PEMC* shall publish in the market information website the particulars of the matter for the information of to the *Market Operator*, *WESM Participants* and other interested persons, inviting written submissions concerning the matter to be made by a specified date;
- (b) Where, in the reasonable opinion of the PEMC there is a diversity of views expressed in the written submissions received under Clause 1.9(a),the PEMC through the PEMB, shall invite the Market Operator, WESM Participants and other interested persons to a meeting or meetings at which those views may be presented and discussed. Nonmembers, who may be deemed interested persons may be invited to attend subject to the discretion of the PEM Board;

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- (d) The *PEMC* shall provide a copy of the report referred to in Clause 1.9 (c) to:
 - (i) The DOE and the ERC on completion of the report; and
 - (ii) Market Operator, WESM Participants and interested persons on request."
- (b) New term, "Compliance Committee," is hereby added under Glossary Chapter 11
 - "Compliance Committee. The committee formed under Clause 1.4.6 to undertake the functions as set out in Clause 1.8.2 and Clause 7.2."
- (c) The definitions of the following terms under Glossary Chapter 11 are amended to read as –

Director. A member of the *PEM Board* or IMO Board, as the case may be;

Independent Market Operator (IMO). The independent Market Operator referred to by Sec. 30 of the EPIRA, referred herein as the Market Operator;

IMO Board. The board of directors of the IMO.

PCC. Philippine Competition Commission

Philippine Electricity Market Corporation or *PEMC*. The corporation previously incorporated upon the initiative of the *DOE* composed of all direct *WESM Members* and whose Board of Directors will be the *PEM Board*.

PEM Board. The governing board of directors of PEMC;

Section 2. Separability Clause. If for any reason, any section or provision of this Circular is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 3. Effectivity. This Circular shall take effect 15 days following its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation and shall remain in effect until otherwise revoked.

Issued this ____ August 2020 at the DOE, Energy Center, Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

ALFONSO G. CUSI Secretary