

Department Circular 2001-04-001

MANDATING THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION AND ALL FRANCHISED ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES TO DRAW UP CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR THE MAY 14, 2001 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Commission of Elections (COMELEC), pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code (B.P. Blg. 881) and other election laws, has prescribed rules and procedures to ensure the successful conduct of the May 14, 2001 national and local elections;

WHEREAS, the COMELEC on 07 November 2000 promulgated Resolution No. 3310 which deputizes, among others, the Department of Energy (DOE), to perform specific duties relative to the conduct of the elections;

WHEREAS, Item 5 of aforesaid Resolution deputized the DOE and its Secretary and other agencies under it, including electric cooperatives in the local areas, to ensure uninterrupted power supply on the day before and on election day, until the termination / conclusion of the canvassing of the election returns and proclamation of the elected officials as well as perform such other functions that the Commission on Election may prescribe from time to time;

WHEREAS, the DOE deems it necessary to involve the National Power Corporation (NPC) and all franchised electric distribution utilities in the provision of uninterrupted power supply during the prescribed period of the COMELEC;

WHEREAS, Section 12, Paragraph (c) (2) of Republic Act No. 7638, otherwise known as the Department of Energy Act of 1992, mandates the DOE through the Energy Industry Administration Bureau (EIAB) to draw up plans to cope with contingencies of energy supply interruptions;

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the DOE hereby prescribes and mandates the following rules and procedures to implement said Item 5 of COMELEC Resolution No. 3310, dated 07 November 2000:

1. The NPC and all franchised distribution utilities shall ensure the provision of uninterrupted power supply within their respective jurisdictional areas on the day before and on election day, until the termination / conclusion of the canvassing of the election returns and proclamation of the elected officials.

Toward this end, aforesaid entities shall prepare and submit to DOE through the EIAB preferably on or before 25 April 2001, individual plans to ensure uninterrupted power supply within their respective areas, during the entire prescribed dates of the COMELEC.

2. All contingency plans shall be consolidated and monitored by the DOE through the EIAB. The DOE in return will submit a consolidated report to COMELEC for its reference.
3. Appropriate administrative sanctions shall be imposed upon NPC and distribution utilities which fail to comply with the requirement of this Circular. Accordingly, the DOE shall make representations with the National

- Electrification Administration (NEA) and the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) to ensure that NPC and distribution of utilities comply with this Circular.
4. This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, 19 April 2001.

(sgd)

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary