

Published on the 6th day of April, 1968

No. 8 of 1968

REGULATIONS

Made by the Guyana Electricity Corporation

Under Section 20 of

THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE, 1957

(No. 34 of 1957)

Citation.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electricity Corporation Supply Regulations, 1968.

Interpre-
tation.

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise require —

“consumer” means a person who is supplied with energy or whose premises are for the time being connected with any Corporation public installation for the purpose of a supply of energy, and a person who had made application to the Corporation for a supply of energy to be provided to premises within the Corporation’s area of supply;

“high voltage” means a voltage exceeding 650 volts under normal conditions;

“low voltage” means a voltage not exceeding 250 volts under normal conditions;

“medium voltage” means a voltage exceeding 250 volts but not exceeding 650 volts under normal conditions;

“the Ordinance” means the Electricity Ordinance, 1957, (including the Electricity Order 1927, as from time to time amended), and any Ordinance or Act amending the same, and the Electric Lighting Ordinance to the extent referred to in section 26 of the Electricity Ordinance, 1957;

Cap. 237.

“person” and words importing persons shall include Corporations, Local Authorities and Government bodies and departments;

“supply contract” means a contract between the Corporation and a consumer for the supply of energy by the Corporation, and

the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

3. (a) Any person may apply to the Corporation for a supply of energy to any premises within the Corporation's area of supply. Application for Supply.

(b) Every application for a supply of energy shall be made in the form from time to time prescribed by the Corporation.

(c) Except as otherwise agreed by the Corporation the characteristics of the service available will be as stated in the Corporation's tariff from time to time applicable to the supply in question. Where owing to special circumstances a supply is to be provided otherwise than in accordance with a tariff, the characteristics of the service shall be at the discretion of the Corporation.

(d) The Corporation will not connect a supply before —

(i) the premises and installation to which it is to be connected have been approved by the Corporation and the Government Electric Inspector;

(ii) the applicant for the supply has paid the deposit payable in respect thereof and has complied with any other applicable provisions of these Regulations.

(e) The Corporation will wherever possible connect a supply of energy within 21 days after the applicant has complied with the provisions of paragraph (d) of this Regulation but no assurance can be given as to the period required for the connection of the supply.

4. Upon the Corporation making available a supply of energy, the application form submitted shall constitute a contract between the applicant and the Corporation for the provision of a supply of energy in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance and of these Regulations; provided that in any particular case the Corporation may, before it connects the supply, require the applicant to enter into a separate contract for the supply of energy on such terms (not being inconsistent with the provisions of the Ordinance and of these Regulations) as the Corporation may prescribe. Contract.

5. A consumer shall not be entitled to assign the benefit of his contract or his right to a supply of energy and shall not sell or supply or cause to be sold or supplied to any other person the energy supplied, without first obtaining the written approval of the Corporation. Contract not assignable energy not to be sold.

6. Without prejudice to the Corporation's right to discontinue the supply of energy to a consumer's premises under these regulations, a supply contract may be determined at any time by either the Corporation or the consumer giving to the other not less than one month's previous notice in writing to determine the same. Termination of Contract.

Any such notice may be given —

(a) by posting the same in a pre-paid envelope addressed to the consumer at the premises to which the supply is provided or, at the option of the Corporation, at his last known address, or in the case of notices to

the Corporation, addressed to the Corporation at its head office, or by delivering the same to the consumer or the Corporation at such address as aforesaid; every notice so given shall be deemed to be served when it is delivered as aforesaid or, as the case may be, 72 hours after it is posted and to prove such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the notice was delivered to or left at the correct address or, as the case may be, that the envelope containing the notice was properly addressed, stamped and posted; or

- (b) by advertisement addressed generally to all the consumers affected (provided they are adequately identified) published at least once in the Gazette and in one or more daily or Sunday newspapers circulating throughout Guyana;

Deposit.

7. Upon submitting an application form the applicant shall deposit with the Corporation by way of security for charges for the supply of energy such sum of money as is provided for in the tariff for the time being applicable to the proposed supply and such further sum, if any, as is payable by such applicant in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

Deposit subject to deduction for sums due.

8. A deposit shall be returned to the consumer on the termination of his supply contract, subject to the deduction therefrom of all outstanding amounts due to the Corporation by the consumer.

Deposit returnable with interest

9. Simple interest at the rate of four per centum per annum shall be payable on a deposit when it is returned to the consumer: Provided that no interest shall be payable —

- (a) in respect of any part of a calendar month;
- (b) if the consumer's contract is terminated within six months of the commencement of the supply of energy.

Applicant to obtain necessary licences.

10. The applicant shall obtain for the Corporation all necessary permissions and licences for entry upon any premises, and for the erection or attachment of such lines, posts, standards or line equipment as may be required by the Corporation for the safe supply of energy to the applicant's premises.

Supply line.

11. The Corporation shall, without charge, provide a supply line to the point of entry to the applicant's premises:

Provided that the Corporation may require an applicant to contribute the whole or any part of the cost of providing and maintaining

and repairing so much of any supply line as exceeds sixty feet in length from a distributing main of the Corporation. Notwithstanding any such contribution, the supply line shall remain the property of the Corporation.

12. Every consumer shall be responsible for maintaining his installation and electrical apparatus in a safe condition to the satisfaction of the Corporation and the Government Electric Inspector. Consumer's installation.

13. Every consumer shall ensure that the Government Electric Inspector and/or any representative of the Corporation shall, at all reasonable times, be permitted to enter any premises to which energy is being, or has been, supplied by the Corporation for the purposes of inspecting any electrical installation and apparatus thereon or of ascertaining the quantity of energy supplied or of connecting or disconnecting the supply of energy, or for any of the purposes of these Regulations. Access to premises.

14. Neither the connection of the supply of energy to a consumer's installation or any part thereof or any apparatus, nor the approval, inspection or testing of any such installation or part thereof or any apparatus shall imply any warranty that the installation or any part thereof or the apparatus is safe or suitable for any purpose or purposes and the Corporation shall not be liable for any injury loss or damage resulting directly or indirectly from any defect and/or inadequacy in a consumer's installation or apparatus. Injury, loss etc.

15. The Corporation may use any supply line connected to a consumer's premises for the purpose of supplying energy to another consumer. Use of supply line.

16. (a) Whenever a transformer is installed by the Corporation for the purpose of supplying energy to one consumer the Corporation shall be entitled to require such consumer to pay to the Corporation the whole or a part of the cost of the transformer and of the installation thereof. Charges for transformers.

(b) Whenever a consumer's installation is connected to a transformer through which other consumers not exceeding 3 in number are supplied with energy, the Corporation shall be entitled to require such consumer to bear such part of the cost of the transformer and the installation thereof as the Corporation shall consider fair and reasonable in the circumstances and if such other consumers or any of them shall already have paid the full cost of the transformer and the installation thereof, the Corporation shall make to them such refund as the Corporation shall consider fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

(c) Notwithstanding any such payment as aforesaid, the transformer shall remain the property of the Corporation.

Person liable
for energy
charges.

17. Every person who takes or applies for or requests a supply of energy shall pay all charges for energy supplied —

- (a) under his supply contract; or
- (b) at his request prior to the commencement of his supply contract, or after the determination of such contract.

Guarantee of
minimum re-
venue.

18. Where the estimated cost of making energy available to any premises or area is such that the income to be derived from the supply of energy to such premises or area may be insufficient to warrant such cost, the Corporation may decline to make energy available to such premises or area except upon the provision of a satisfactory guarantee that a minimum quantity of energy will be taken by such premises or area for a specified period and, if the Corporation so requires, the payment to the Corporation of a deposit by way of security for payment of the whole or any part of such minimum quantity of energy (such deposit to be returnable only if and to the extent that such quantity is in fact taken and paid for over the said period).

Tariffs.

19. (a) Subject as hereinafter provided, the Corporation's charges for each supply of energy provided by it shall be calculated in accordance with such of the Corporation's tariffs for the time being in force as shall in accordance with the terms thereof be applicable to the supply.

(b) The Corporation's tariffs shall be prescribed, and may from time to time be added to, amended, and/or withdrawn, by resolution of the Corporation.

(c) The Corporation's tariffs shall be so framed as to ensure that the Corporation's charges for a supply of energy shall not at any time exceed the limit of price for the time being applicable to such supply in accordance with the provision of the Ordinance.

(d) The Corporation shall publish and make known its tariffs and all changes therein in such manner as will in the opinion of the Corporation secure adequate publicity for them.

(e) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this regulation but subject always to the provisions of section 21 of the Ordinance and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof, the Corporation may in the case of energy supplied for street lighting purposes, and in any other case where, in its opinion, the tariffs in force are not appropriate owing to special circumstances, enter into an agreement with any person for the supply of energy to him on such terms as may be prescribed in the agreement.

Measurement
of energy
supplied.

20. (a) Unless some other method of measuring the amount of energy supplied to a consumer's premises shall have been agreed between the Corporation and the consumer, the Corporation shall measure such amount of energy by means of a meter installed by the Corporation on the consumer's premises.

(b) All energy supplied to a consumer's premises at any one tariff shall be supplied through one meter.

21. No fee shall be payable by the consumer for the installation of a meter where the supply of energy is to be provided for a period exceeding six months. In any other case the Corporation may make a charge for such installation.

Meter installation.

22. An account for charges for the supply of energy shall be rendered to the consumer at intervals of about one month provided that an accidental omission to despatch any account or accounts shall not release a consumer from responsibility for the charges for energy supplied to him. Except where otherwise expressly agreed, every account shall be payable within 21 days of the issue of the account and if payment in full is not made within that period the Corporation may, without notice, disconnect the supply in question and any other supply provided to the same consumer. For the purposes of this regulation, an account shall be deemed to be issued when it is posted.

Accounts.

23. The Corporation may include in a consumer's account for the supply of energy any unpaid charges for work done or services rendered by the Corporation in or about the consumer's supply, and such account shall remain subject to the terms and conditions of payment for the supply of energy under these regulations.

Charges for work done by Corporation may be included in consumer's account for energy.

24. If for any reason the Corporation is unable to secure access to a meter on the consumer's premises for the purpose of reading it, the Corporation may determine the amount of energy supplied to the premises on the basis of the average monthly consumption by the consumer during the previous three months. This method of determining the amount of energy supplied shall not be employed for more than two consecutive months and if thereafter the Corporation is unable to secure access to the consumer's meter for the purpose of reading it, the Corporation may, without notice, disconnect the supply of energy to the consumer's premises.

Non access to meter.

25. Where the supply of energy has been disconnected from a consumer's premises in pursuance of the provisions of the preceding regulation, the supply shall not be reconnected unless the meter is resited on the premises to the satisfaction of the Corporation and the Government Electric Inspector. The cost of such re-siting of the meter shall be borne by the consumer.

Resiting of meter.

26. If the Corporation is satisfied that a meter has not accurately registered the amount of energy supplied to a consumer's premises, the Corporation may determine the amount on the basis of the average monthly consumption by the consumer during the previous three months (month for this purpose meaning a period of approximately one month between normal meter readings).

Failure of meter.

Testing and
repair of
meter.

27. If a consumer has reason to believe that his meter is not registering accurately the amount of energy supplied to his premises, he may notify the Corporation in writing to that effect. If the Corporation is satisfied that the meter may be registering inaccurately, the Corporation shall test the meter and carry out any repairs that may be found without charge to the consumer. If the meter shall be found to be accurate the consumer shall pay a testing fee of Five Dollars.

Alteration in
consumer's
appliances.

28. The consumer shall give to the Corporation prior notice in writing of every proposed alteration in the number or type of the appliances or apparatus he intends to use. If such alteration is approved by the Corporation the terms and conditions of the consumer's supply shall be varied as may be appropriate.

Charge for
temporary
supply.

29. If an applicant requires or a consumer takes a supply of energy for a period not exceeding six months he shall pay to the Corporation the whole or such part of the cost of providing such supply as the Corporation may direct.

Defects in
consumer's
installation

30. If any protective apparatus installed in the Corporation's system fails to operate by reason of a defect in the consumer's installation the Corporation may make such alteration to the said installation as is necessary to overcome the failure, and the consumer shall reimburse the Corporation for the cost of such rectification and for the cost of any damage to the Corporation's system resulting from such failure.

System of
supply of
energy.

31. The Corporation's system of supply of energy shall normally provide alternating current at fifty cycles a second.

Voltage.

32. The supply of energy to a consumer's premises shall, in the discretion of the Corporation, be at a low, medium, or high voltage.

Location
of point
of supply
etc.

33. The location of the point of supply of energy and of the meter shall be determined by the Corporation; provided that in special circumstances the Corporation may, in its discretion, provide more than one point of supply.

Method of
supply.

34. If the consumer requests that the supply of energy to his premises should be by a method other than that which the Corporation would ordinarily adopt, the Corporation may, in its discretion, agree to the consumer's request and the consumer shall pay to the Corporation all costs and expenses incurred in providing the supply of energy which are in excess of the estimated cost to the Corporation of providing the supply by the means that the Corporation would ordinarily adopt.

Safe keeping
of Cor-
poration's
apparatus.

35. The consumer shall be responsible for the safe keeping of the Corporation's meter and other apparatus installed on his premises for the supply of energy. The consumer shall not interfere

with or permit any person, other than an officer or servant of the Corporation to interfere with the Corporation's meter or other apparatus.

36. The consumer shall be responsible for any damage to or loss or destruction of the Corporation's installation on the premises caused otherwise than by *force majeure* or by any act within the control of the Corporation, and the consumer shall pay to the Corporation the cost of making good such damage or loss.

Damage to Corporation's installation.

37. The Corporation may install protective apparatus on a consumer's premises for the purpose of disconnecting the supply of energy in the event that the consumer's installation is used in a manner likely to cause a demand for energy that exceeds the Corporation's installed transformer capacity for the area in which the premises are situated.

Protective apparatus.

38. The Corporation may discontinue the supply of energy to a consumer without notice —

Right to discontinue supply of energy.

- (a) if the consumer fails to comply with any term of his supply contract or any relevant provision of these regulations;
- (b) if the consumer is convicted of any offence under the Ordinance or any order, regulation or other instrument taking effect thereunder;
- (c) if there is no valid contract in force in relation to such supply.

39. If a supply of energy to a consumer's premises is disconnected in pursuance of regulation 22, the supply shall be restored to the premises on payment by the consumer of all sums due to the Corporation together with such charge not exceeding the estimated cost of restoring the supply as the Corporation may require.

Reconnection fee after discontinuance for non-payment of account.

40. If a supply of energy to a consumer's premises is disconnected under any of these regulations, unless otherwise provided, the supply shall be reconnected only after:

Reconnection of supply generally.

- (a) amends have been made by the consumer to the satisfaction of the Corporation, and, in appropriate cases, of the Government Electric Inspector; and
- (b) payment has been made to the Corporation by the consumer of such sum not exceeding the estimated cost of restoring the supply as the Corporation may require.

41. If a consumer is being supplied with energy by the Corporation at two or more premises and the supply to one or more of such premises has been disconnected at his request, or in pursuance of these regulations, the Corporation may include in his account for the supply of energy to any other of such premises which remain con-

Charges in respect of disconnected premises may be added to account for connected premises.

nected, any amount due in respect of the disconnected supply. For the purposes of regulation 22, the total amount included in the account shall be deemed to relate to the supply of energy to the connected premises in respect of which the account for charges is rendered.

Temporary discontinuance of supply.

42. The Corporation may temporarily discontinue the supply of energy to a consumer's premises for the purpose of testing or effecting repairs to its system, or to its installation on the premises, or in the event of an occurrence affecting or liable to affect the proper working of its system or installation.

Discontinuance of supply for interference with meter or other apparatus or absence of valid contract.

43. The Corporation may, without notice, disconnect the supply of energy to a consumer's premises and may, in addition, terminate his contract for such supply —

- (a) if there is found on the premises any unauthorised device which, in the opinion of the Corporation, is capable of affecting the proper operation of the meter on the premises, or
- (b) if the seal affixed by the Corporation to its meter, fusebox, or other installation on the premises has been broken; or
- (c) if the Corporation is satisfied that its supply line, meter, fusebox or other installation or any installation between the point of supply and the meter has been interfered with; and may in addition without notice disconnect the supply if there is no valid contract in force in relation to such supply.

Consumer to make good all Corporation's expenses before reconnection.

44. If a supply of energy to a consumer's premises is disconnected under the provisions of regulation 43, but the consumer's contract is not terminated by the Corporation and the consumer wishes to have the supply of energy to his premises re-connected, he shall pay to the Corporation any charge assessed by the Corporation for energy wrongfully obtained together with such a fee for reconnection as the Corporation may require. The Corporation may also require that the point of supply of energy to the consumer's premises be first relocated or modified at the expense of the consumer, to the satisfaction of the Corporation and the Government Electric Inspector.

Removal of meter upon termination of contract.

45. Upon the termination of a supply contract the Corporation may remove from the premises its meter and any other installation belonging to the Corporation.

Unauthorised reconnection.

46. Where a supply of energy to a consumer's premises has been disconnected in pursuance of the provisions of these regulations, the consumer shall not reconnect the supply or permit or cause any person, other than an authorised officer or servant of the Corporation, to reconnect it. In the event of any unauthorised reconnection of such supply, the Corporation may again disconnect the supply. Any reconnection of the supply of energy shall be undertaken subject to the provisions of regulation 44.

47. If the Corporation is satisfied that a consumer's installation or any apparatus installed on his premises is defective, the Corporation may, without notice, disconnect the supply of energy to the premises, and the supply shall not be reconnected unless the defect has been remedied to the satisfaction of the Corporation and the Government Electric Inspector.

Disconnection
for defective
installation.

48. The Electricity Corporation Regulations 1963 are hereby repealed.

Repeal of
Electricity
Corporation
Regulations
1963.

49. These regulations shall come into force on the 28th day of March, 1968, and shall be published in the Gazette as early as possible thereafter.

Date of
coming into
force.

These Regulations were made by the Guyana Electricity Corporation on the 28th day of March, 1968.

R. E. O. MORIAH,
Secretary.