

**THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE 30TH JUNE, 1999
LEGAL SUPPLEMENT – C**

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
Guyana.

30th June, 1999

The following Bill which will be introduced in the National Assembly is published for general information.

F. A. Narain,
Clerk of the National Assembly

GUYANA

**BILL No. 13 OF 1999
ELECTRICITY SECTOR REFORM BILL 1999**

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

**PART I
PRELIMINARY**

1. Short Title and commencement.
2. Interpretation.

**PART II
ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**

3. Requirement for a licence and exemption therefrom.
4. Authority to grant licences for supply of electricity.
5. Terms and conditions of licences to supply electricity.
6. Procedures for licence applications.
7. Notice of granting of licence.
8. Disposition of charges for licences.
9. Power to grant licences to Local Government Authorities.
10. Effectiveness of licences.
11. Prohibition on cessation of licensed operations.
12. Activities requiring prior consent of the Minister.
13. Modifications of licences.
14. Extensions of licences.

15. Securing compliance with conditions of licences.
16. Suspension and revocation of licences.
17. Considerations for giving a notice of compliance, suspension or revocation.
18. Appeal procedures.
19. Purchase of undertaking.
20. General powers and duties of licensees.
21. Supply of electricity by public suppliers.
22. Notice of requirement of a supply of electricity.
23. Contract for supply of electricity.
24. Exceptions to requirement to supply electricity.
25. Power to require acceptance of restrictions upon supply of electricity.
26. Rates for the supply of electricity: general provisions.
27. Rates for the supply of electricity: Guyana Electricity Corporation and Guyana Power & Light, Inc.
28. Power to require security for the payment of sums due for the supply of electricity.
29. Special agreements for the supply of electricity.
30. Regulations for the supply of electricity to the public.
31. Technical standards and powers applicable to public suppliers.
32. Acquisition of lands.
33. Conditions under which a public supplier may break up streets, etc..
34. Consent of local Government authority.
35. Conditions under which a public supplier may alter position of pipes and wires.
36. Mode of effecting alteration of position of "obstruction".
37. Cutting trees, boughs and other vegetation.
38. Sustainability programmes.
39. Keeping and rendering books, accounts, papers and other records.
40. Accounting and information reporting requirements.
41. Information and reports to be provided by private suppliers.

PART III REFORM OF THE ELECTRICITY SECTOR

42. Creation of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. and related provisions.
43. Transitional orders, no requirement for a licence for Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc.
44. Applicability of the Act and commercial principles to operations of Guyana Power & Light, Inc.
45. Employees.

46. Projects for the generation of electricity.
47. Savings of effect of section 47 (2) of the Electricity Sector Reform Act 1997.
48. Construction or expansion of installations or capacity for electricity generation.
49. Rural electrification programmes.
50. Requirements for corporate form and location of headquarters and books and records in Guyana.

PART IV
MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

51. Liabilities and immunities of suppliers and others.
52. Immunity of persons operating water works and sewerage systems.
53. Penalty for the unauthorised supply of electricity.
54. Penalty for unauthorised electric lines or other apparatus or installations.
55. Penalty for obstruction of public suppliers' activities.
56. Penalty for unauthorised cessation of operations.
57. Penalty for unauthorised transactions.
58. Penalty for failing to maintain sustainability programmes and to maintain and submit development and expansion programmes.
59. Penalty for failure to maintain or provide documents, reports and other information.
60. Penalty for continuing offences.
61. Power to institute proceedings.
62. Payment of penalties.
63. Recovery of penalties not specified.
64. Arbitration: general; disputes concerning purchase of undertaking.
65. Duties of the Minister.
66. Maintenance of registry.
67. Notices.
68. Savings.
69. Authority to make regulations.
70. Amendment of Schedules.
71. Repeal.

SCHEDULES

First Schedule - Parts A and B
Second Schedule
Third Schedule

A BILL
Intituled

AN ACT to provide for the regular, efficient, coordinated and economical supply of electricity and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

A.D. 1999 Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana: -

PART I

PRELIMINARY

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|-----|---|
| Short title and commencement. | 1. | (1) | This Act may be cited as the Electricity Sector Reform Act 1999. |
| | | (2) | This Act shall come into force on such day as the Minister may by order appoint, and different days may be appointed for different provisions of this Act. |
| Interpretation. | 2. | | In this Act - |
| No. 31 of 1997 | | (a) | “Agency” means the Guyana Energy Agency established by section 3 of the Guyana Energy Agency Act 1997; |
| | | (b) | “appointed day” means the day on which this Act, or any provision thereof, comes into force in accordance with section 1 (2); |
| | | (c) | “authorised area” means the geographical area within which a public supplier is authorised to supply electricity as set forth in a licence granted under section 4 or an exemption granted under section 3 to that public supplier; |
| No. ____ of 1999 | | (d) | “Commission” has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999; |
| | | (e) | “competitor” or “competition,” in relation to any licensee, means respectively any person other than the licensee, or the activities of any such person, authorised by a licence granted under section 4 or an exemption granted under section 3 to supply electricity; |
| | | (f) | “consumer” means any owner or occupier of premises to which a public supplier supplies, or has been requested to supply, |

electricity, or whose premises are connected, directly or indirectly, with any electric line or other electrical apparatus or installation of a public supplier through which electricity is, or is capable of being, supplied;

- (g) “independent power producer” means any person who generates electricity for the purpose of selling it to another public supplier for transmission, distribution or sale to consumers;
- (h) “governing body” means the board of directors in the case of a corporate body, the responsible Minister in the case of a Ministry or a Government department, or the person or persons having the ultimate authority in the case of any other entity;
- (i) “Government” means, as appropriate in the context, the Government or the State, or both, each as defined in section 5 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act;
- (j) “licensee” means any person authorised by a licence granted under section 4 or an exemption granted under section 3 to supply electricity;
- (k) “local Government authority” has the same meaning as in section 5 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act;
- (l) “Minister” means the Minister to whom the administration of this Act has been assigned;
- (m) “premises” means any land or any building or other erection wherever situated;
- (n) “private purposes” means the supplying of electricity by any person to himself or any other person, or to premises, other than for public purposes, specified in a licence granted under section 4 or an exemption granted under section 3;
- (o) “private supplier” means any person who supplies electricity for private purposes;
- (p) “public supplier” means any person who supplies electricity for public purposes, which includes an independent power producer;

Cap. 2:01

Cap. 2:01

Third Schedule

- (q) “public purposes” means supplying electricity to consumers within an authorised area;
- (r) “rural electrification programme” means a programme for extending electricity service to an area located outside the area that can be economically served by the then existing facilities of the public supplier;
- (s) “shares” means the ordinary shares and preference shares representing the equity capital of a public supplier;
- t) “Standard Terms and Conditions” means such terms and conditions governing the relationship between a public supplier and consumers as may be included in a licence and modified from time to time in accordance with paragraph 33 of the Third Schedule;
- (u) “Strategic Investor” means a company or consortium that invests in Guyana Power & Light, Inc. pursuant to a Share Subscription Agreement and a Shareholders’ Agreement between the Government and such company or consortium;
- (v) “supplier” means any person supplying electricity;
- (w) “supply,” whether used as a noun or a verb, includes the generation, storage, transmission, distribution, furnishing or sale of electricity;
- (x) “sustainability programme” means both an annual and a rolling five-year plan which sets out, in the detail required under section 38, the manner in which a public supplier is to achieve and sustain the customer service, engineering and technical standards necessary for an efficient, co-ordinated and economical supply of electricity under a licence granted to such public supplier under section 4 or an exemption granted to such public supplier under section 3; and “development and expansion programme” means that portion of a sustainability programme which sets out the manner through which the public supplier will develop and expand its facilities and services to be provided to consumers and which, subject to the provisions of this Act and the terms of a licence or exemption, shall be deemed to be a development and expansion programme under the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999;

No. ___ of 1999

- (y) “undertaking” means the assets and liabilities relating to the business of a public supplier;
- (z) “works” means land, buildings, machinery, equipment, inventory, electric lines, poles, apparatus, fittings, appliances, and any other matter, thing, right, interest or property, including movable, tangible and intangible property and intellectual property rights, owned or leased by a person and used by him, directly or indirectly, to supply electricity.

PART II

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Requirement for a licence and exemption therefrom.

3. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (4), a person shall not supply electricity to any other person, or to any premises or geographical area, except under and in accordance with the terms of a licence granted under section 4.
- (2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to the use of or supply of electricity from any electricity generation capacity and equipment which --
- (a) was installed prior to the appointed day and which is used by a person for the purpose of supplying electricity to himself and any other person;
 - (b) is, notwithstanding the repeal of the Electric Lighting Act, authorised by a licence granted prior to the appointed day under the said Act;
 - (c) is authorised by a licence granted prior to the appointed day under any law remaining in force on that day; or
 - (d) is electricity generation capacity of a class or description as may be prescribed by the Minister by order for the purposes of exempting it from subsection (1):

Cap. 56:02

Provided that no order made under this subsection shall contravene or nullify the provisions of a licence granted under section 4:

Provided further that, as to electricity generation capacity and equipment actually installed and in operation prior to the

appointed day, the exemptions contained in this subsection shall apply to any replacement equipment of the same electricity generation capacity sought to be installed or placed into operation after the appointed day, so long as such equipment and its installation comply with all applicable laws and regulations and continue to be used for the same purposes.

- (3) (a) With regard to any electricity generation capacity which was installed prior to the appointed day, any person claiming an exemption under this section shall, within ninety days of the appointed day or within such longer period as the Minister may by order prescribe, give written notification to the Minister of such claim and the basis therefor in accordance with subsection (2).
- (b) With regard to any electricity generation capacity which a person is desirous of installing after the appointed day, any person claiming an exemption under subsection (2) shall, within ninety days prior to such installation, give written notification to the Minister and to the Agency of such claim, the basis therefor in accordance with subsection (2), and the technical specifications of the electricity generation equipment which such person is desirous of installing.
- (c) The failure of a person to give notification to the Minister under paragraph (a) or (b), or to the Agency under paragraph (b), shall subject such person to the penalties provided for in section 53.
- (d) Within twenty-one days after receiving notification from any person under paragraph (a) or (b) and after consulting with the Agency in the case of a notification under paragraph (b), the Minister shall notify such person whether, in the Minister's opinion, such person qualifies for the exemption claimed, and, if so, grant the exemption claimed upon terms and conditions specified in the exemption:

Provided that no exemption granted under this paragraph shall contravene or nullify the provisions of a licence granted under section 4.

- (4) A person shall not be required to obtain a licence under section 4 or an exemption under this section if he supplies electricity solely to himself, and not to any other person:

Provided that such person has filed a report with the Minister and the public supplier in whose authorised area such person is supplying electricity to himself, on a form to be prescribed by the Minister.

Authority to grant licences for supply of electricity.

4. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Minister may grant a licence, which may be an exclusive licence, authorising any person to supply electricity, for public or private purposes and for a period not to exceed twenty-five years, upon such terms and conditions as may be specified in the licence, and subject to the following principles -
- (a) a licence may include exclusivity as against the Government;
- (b) subject to the provisions of any licence granted to a public supplier, this Act and the Guyana Energy Agency Act 1997, the Minister shall grant a licence to an applicant for the supply of electricity within an authorised area within which a public supplier has an exclusive licence to supply electricity if the Minister, after consultation with the public supplier and the applicant, is first satisfied that the regular, safe and efficient supply of electricity by the public supplier to the applicant and to any other person that the applicant proposes to supply with electricity, is not now or in the foreseeable future readily available on reasonable terms, which, in the case of a private supplier who uses electricity for commercial or industrial purposes, shall include consideration by the Minister of whether the public supplier can supply electricity at no more than the cost that would be incurred by the applicant if he were to generate the electricity himself; and, if granted by the Minister, such licence shall be valid for the term of the normal life of the equipment to be utilised by the applicant for the generation of electricity, up to a maximum of twenty-five years, and shall restrict the applicant to selling, giving or distributing electricity to himself, his relatives, his employees and officials, schools, athletic clubs, canteens and non-profit

No. 31 of 1997

organisations in the immediate vicinity of the source of his generation capacity;

(c) prior to granting a licence to an independent power producer for the generation of electricity for sale to a public supplier, the Minister shall be satisfied -

(i) that the governing bodies of both the independent power producer and the public supplier to which the independent power producer proposes to sell electricity for transmission and distribution to consumers have approved the terms and conditions upon which such electricity will be purchased by the public supplier, and such terms and conditions insofar as they relate to rates have further been approved by the Commission in the exercise of its authority under section 35 (1) of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999; and

(ii) that the terms and conditions so approved are commercially prudent and viable, will not adversely affect or will enhance the system-wide capacity, reliability and efficiency of the public supplier, and are compatible with national energy policy;

(d) a public supplier's licence may authorise the public supplier to purchase electricity from an independent power producer for resale to the public.

(2) A licence granted under this section shall be deemed to be a statutory instrument as that term is defined in section 5 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act.

No. ___ of 1999

Cap. 2:01

Terms and conditions of licences to supply electricity.

5. A licence granted by the Minister under section 4 may include-

- (a) the activities in which the licensee is permitted to engage, that is, the generation, storage, transmission, distribution, furnishing or sale of electricity;
- (b) such limits within which, and conditions under which, electricity is to be supplied, including Standard Terms and Conditions forming and governing the contractual relationship between consumers and the public supplier;

- (c) in the case of a licence for the supply of electricity for public purposes, the authorised area within which the public supplier may supply electricity;
- (d) in the case of a licence for the supply of electricity for private purposes, the person or persons, or the premises, to which the licensee may supply electricity;
- (e) provisions for enforcing the performance by a licensee of its duties in relation to the supply of electricity by the imposition of penalties, and for the revocation of the licence;
- (f) the limitation on, or a mechanism of the calculation of, the prices to be charged by the licensee for the supply of electricity from time to time;
- (g) provisions authorising inspection and inquiry from time to time by the Minister and the relevant local Government authorities;
- (h) conditions requiring the licensee to render payment on the granting of the licence, or payment during the validity of the licence, or both, in such amounts as may be specified in the licence;
- (i) where, in any area or part of an area in which any person is authorised to supply electricity under any licence, the person is not himself the local Government authority, any provisions and restrictions deemed expedient by the Minister for enabling the local Government authority within whose jurisdiction that area or part of an area is, to exercise any of the powers of the person licensed under section 4 with respect to the breaking up of any street repairable by the local Government authority within the area or part of an area and the alteration of the position of any pipes or wires under the street, and not being the pipes or wires of the licensed person, and of limiting the powers and liabilities of the licensed person in relation thereto;
- (j) provisions granting the Government or, in any licence in which the licensee is not a local Government authority, a local Government authority a right of first refusal for the purchase of the undertaking and works of the licensee, and the procedures and principles governing such a purchase, upon expiration, revocation or termination of the licence;

- (k) any other provisions relative to the undertaking and works of the licensee upon expiration, revocation or termination of the licence;
- (l) generally such other provisions and conditions as the Minister may think fit:

Provided that -

- (a) the Minister may make regulations necessary for the implementation of national energy policy;
- (b) any regulations so made by the Minister, to the extent that they do not contravene the terms and conditions of a licence, shall have the like effect in every respect as though they had been originally inserted in every licence authorising the supply of electricity; and
- (c) any such regulation repealed shall not affect any liability or penalty incurred in respect thereof prior to the date of the repeal, or any proceeding or remedy in relation thereto:

Provided further that any local Government authority within whose boundaries electricity is supplied under a licence may, subject to the prior approval of the Minister, make by-laws for further securing the safety of the public, and there may be annexed to such by-laws such penalties, not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, as the local Government authority may think necessary for any breach of the by-laws, and paragraph (b), insofar as it is applicable, shall mutatis mutandis apply to the making of such by-laws.

Procedures for licence applications.

- 6. (1) An application for a licence shall be made in the manner, and shall be accompanied by such evidence and such fee (if any), as the Minister may by regulation prescribe.
- (2) No licence shall authorise the supply of electricity by any person within the jurisdiction of any local Government authority, not being itself the person applying for the licence to supply electricity, unless notice that that licence has been granted, or is intended to be applied for, has been given to the local Government authority by the applicant in the manner directed or approved by the Minister.

No. 31 of 1997

- (3) Every person applying for a licence shall, at his own expense, publish in a daily newspaper a notice of his application in the manner and including the particulars determined by the Minister.
- (4) The licence shall not be granted by the Minister until opportunity has been given to all parties likely to be affected by the granting or refusal to grant such licence to make representations or objections to the Minister with reference to the application, and until the Minister has requested and received the advice of the Agency in accordance with section 6 of the Guyana Energy Agency Act 1997, and in no case shall it be granted before the expiration of six weeks from the date of the first publication of the advertisement required under subsection (3).
- (5) If, after the application for the licence is made and before it is granted by the Minister, a petition is presented against its being granted, the petitioner shall be allowed to appear before the Minister and oppose its being granted.
- (6) On receipt of a petition opposing the granting of a licence or the advice of the Agency that the licence be refused, the Minister shall notify the applicant accordingly and shall afford the applicant an opportunity to show cause why the licence should be granted.
- (7) Within fourteen days after the opportunity to be heard provided for in subsections (4) to (6), inclusive, the Minister, bearing in mind the guidelines specified in section 65, shall make a determination whether to grant or refuse the licence, and shall promptly notify the applicant of his determination.

Notice of granting of licence.

7. As soon as practicable after granting a licence, the Minister shall publish a notice of such grant in a daily newspaper and shall send a copy of the licence to the Agency, to the Commission and -
 - (a) to the licensee;
 - (b) in the case of a licence for the generation of electricity by an independent power producer, to any licensee whose authorised area encompasses the area in which the independent power producer is authorised to generate electricity and to any licensee to whom the independent power producer is authorised by its licence to sell electricity; and

- (c) in the case of a licence for the supply of electricity for private purposes, to any licensee in whose authorised area the persons or premises to which the person is authorised to supply electricity for private purposes are located.

- | | | |
|--|-----|---|
| Disposition of charges for licences. | 8. | Any sums received by the Minister for applications for licences or in accordance with the provisions of any licence shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund. |
| Power to grant licences to local Government authorities. | 9. | Subject to this Act, a licence may be granted to a local Government authority, authorising it to supply electricity within any area not already being the authorised area in an exclusive licence granted to a public supplier, although the area or some part thereof may not be included within the local Government authority's own district. |
| Effectiveness of licences. | 10. | A licence shall be in writing and, unless revoked in accordance with any condition contained in the licence and section 16, shall continue in force and effect in accordance with its terms and conditions for such period as may be specified in the licence. |
| Prohibition on cessation of licensed operations. | 11. | Except where a licence expires or is revoked, suspended, cancelled or terminated in accordance with its conditions, no public supplier shall cease its licensed operations within its authorised area or any part thereof without first obtaining the permission of the Minister and the Commission. |
| Activities requiring prior consent of the Minister. | 12. | The following conditions shall be included in every licence granted and shall be deemed to have been agreed upon by the licensee - <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) (i) a licensee shall not, without the prior consent in writing of the Minister, acquire, by purchase or otherwise, the licence or the business of, or for the purpose of supplying electricity associate itself with, any person supplying, or intending to supply, electricity under any other licence;(ii) before applying for such consent, the licensee shall give not less than one month's notice of its intention to apply for such consent to the Agency, and the Agency may present its views, orally or in writing, to the Minister on the proposed acquisition or association within thirty days of the licensee's notice: |

Provided that nothing in these conditions shall be construed as requiring the consent of the Minister for the purchase of

electricity by a public supplier from an independent power producer licensed under this Act to sell electricity to such public supplier, or for any other purchase provided for in a licence,

- (b) a licensee shall not assign or encumber its licence, or transfer, or divest itself of, its rights or obligations under a licence, or any part thereof, without the prior consent in writing of the Minister, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld;
- (c) except as otherwise provided in a licence, no public supplier may, without the prior consent in writing of the Minister, lend funds or give credit to any of its officers or directors or to any company (except a public supplier subject to the regulatory powers of the Minister) if the company holds, directly or indirectly through any chain of ownership, five percent or more of the voting stock of the public supplier or renders any managerial, supervisory, engineering, legal, accounting or financial service to the public supplier, by -
 - (i) becoming surety, guarantor or endorser upon any obligations, contingent or otherwise, of such officer, director or company;
 - (ii) loaning funds, securities or other like assets to such officer, director or company;
 - (iii) purchasing in the open market, or otherwise, any obligation upon which the officer, director or company may be liable solely or jointly with others;
- (d) unless permitted under the terms of a licence, any agreement relating to any transaction of the nature described in this section, unless made with or subject to the consent of the Minister, shall be void;
- (e) unless otherwise provided by the Minister in writing, this section shall extend to the renewal or extension of agreements existing on the appointed day.

★ Modifications of licences.

13. (1) Subject to the first and second provisos to section 5 and this section, the Minister, after seeking the Agency's advice, may modify the terms and conditions of a licence if the holder of the licence consents to the modifications in writing.

- (2) Before concluding any modifications to which the Minister and the licensee have agreed, the Minister shall give notice -
 - (a) stating that he proposes to make such modifications and setting out their effect;
 - (b) stating the reasons why he proposes to make the modifications; and
 - (c) specifying the period (not being less than thirty days from the date of publication of the notice) within which representations or objections with respect to the proposed modifications may be made,

and shall consider any representations or objections which are duly made.

- (3) A notice under subsection (2) shall be given by publishing it in a daily newspaper.

Extensions of licences.

14. (1) The Minister, upon the application of any licensee, may grant an extension of the licence for a period not exceeding fifteen years, at any time within one year previous to the expiry of the licence or any extension thereof or in accordance with the terms of the licence governing extensions, as the case may be.
- (2) Section 13 (2) and (3), governing the procedure for modifications of licences, shall apply mutatis mutandis to proceedings for extensions under this section.
- (3) Subject to subsection (2) and within three months of receiving an application for an extension of a licence, the Minister shall determine whether to extend the licence and, within the same three month period, shall serve a notice of his determination upon the licensee.

Securing compliance with conditions of licences.

15. (1) Where the Minister, acting reasonably, is satisfied that a licensee has contravened or is likely to contravene a condition of its licence, he may, by notice in writing served on the licensee, require the licensee, within such period as shall be specified in the notice -
 - (a) to take such steps as the Minister considers necessary to secure compliance with that condition or to avoid the likely

contravention of that condition and, where there is a contravention of a condition, to make good any direct loss or damage in consequence of the contravention of that condition;

(b) to lodge with the Accountant General such security as shall be specified in the notice for the due observance of that condition.

(2) A notice under subsection (1) shall state the relevant condition of the licence in respect of which it is to be served and the acts or omissions which, in the opinion of the Minister, constitute or are likely to constitute a contravention of that condition, and such notice shall be effective upon service on the licensee.

Suspension and
revocation of licences.

16. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) and except as otherwise provided in a licence, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on a licensee in accordance with the terms of its licence or section 67, as the case may be, suspend or revoke the licence on any of the following grounds -

(a) in the case of a licence for the supply of electricity for public purposes, that the licensee, in the opinion of the Minister, acting reasonably, is not providing consumers in its authorised area with a regular and efficient supply of electricity in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the licence;

(b) in the case of a licence for the supply of electricity for private purposes that the licensee is using the electricity supply facilities in a manner not authorised by the terms and conditions of its licence or in a manner that is constituting, or is likely to constitute, a nuisance;

(c) that the licensee has contravened, or failed to carry out within a reasonable time or discontinued the performance of, the terms or conditions of its licence, or has contravened the provisions of this Act or regulations made thereunder, or is supplying electricity in a manner not authorised by its licence;

(d) that the licensee has failed to pay any sum due and payable under the licence to the Accountant General and, after

written notice, for a period of thirty days has not cured such failure;

- (e) that the licensee has become bankrupt or compounds with its creditors or, in the opinion of the Minister, acting reasonably, the licensee's financial position causes it to be unable fully and efficiently to discharge the duties and obligations imposed on it by its licence;
 - (f) that the licensee has failed to comply with a notice under section 15 (1) or an order of the High Court under section 18 (4) (b) for securing compliance with any condition of the licence;
 - (g) that the licence was obtained by fraud; or
 - (h) any other ground specified in the licence.
- (2) Before serving a licensee with a final notice of suspension or revocation under subsection (1), the Minister shall serve on the licensee an initial notice in writing and publish the initial notice in a daily newspaper, stating -
- (a) that he is considering serving a final notice of suspension or revocation on the licensee on the grounds specified under subsection (1); and
 - (b) that the licensee and any person likely to be affected by a suspension or revocation may, within the period of thirty days from the date of the service of such initial notice on the licensee, make written and, if the licensee or affected person so desires, oral representations to the Minister.
- (3) The Minister shall consider any representations made by a licensee and any person likely to be affected by a suspension or revocation in response to an initial notice under subsection (2) before serving a final notice of suspension or revocation of the licence.
- (4) After serving a final notice of suspension or revocation in respect to a public supplier's licence, the Minister shall publish notice of it in a daily newspaper and in such other way as appears to him expedient for notifying consumers in the authorised area to which the licence relates.

- (5) A final notice of suspension or revocation shall be effective on the expiration of thirty days from the date of service of the notice.
- (6) A public supplier to whom a final notice of suspension or revocation of a licence has been given under this section shall be liable upon summary conviction for a penalty of not less than one million dollars nor more than forty million dollars, depending upon the degree of harm to the public caused by the acts or omissions that formed the grounds upon which such licence was revoked or suspended.

Considerations for giving a notice of compliance, suspension or revocation.

- 17. With regard to any notice contemplated under section 15 (1) or section 16 (1), the Minister shall not give such notice to a licensee if he is satisfied -
 - (a) that the duties imposed on him by section 65 preclude the giving of the notice;
 - (b) that the licensee has agreed to take and is taking all such steps as it appears to the Minister to be appropriate for the licensee to take for the purpose of curing the contravention, failure or violation in question; or
 - (c) that the contravention, failure or violation in question is of a trivial or immaterial nature.

Appeal procedures.

- 18. (1) A licensee may appeal to the High Court against a notice under section 15 (1) or section 16 (1).
- (2) An appeal under subsection (1) shall be instituted by a licensee within the period of fourteen days from the effective date of the notice under section 15 (2) or 16 (5).
- (3) The Attorney General shall be the respondent to every appeal instituted under subsection (1).
- (4) On an appeal instituted under subsection (1), the High Court may, by order -
 - (a) quash or confirm the notice against which the appeal is brought; or

- (b) where the notice is a notice under section 15 (1), vary the requirements imposed by the notice;
- (c) where the notice is a notice under section 16 (1) and the High Court is satisfied that the appellant has contravened or is likely to contravene any of the conditions of its licence, but that such contravention does not warrant suspension or revocation of the licence, quash the notice and order the appellant -
 - (i) to take such steps as the High Court considers necessary to secure compliance with that condition and to make good any direct loss or damage in consequence of a contravention of that condition;
 - (ii) to lodge with the Accountant General such security as shall be specified in the order for the due observance of that condition.

Purchase of
undertaking.

19. (1) Unless otherwise provided in the licence of a public supplier, where the Minister declines to extend the term of the licence of the public supplier under section 14 or revokes the licence of the public supplier under section 16, and after any appeal by the public supplier of any such decision by the Minister has been finally determined confirming the Minister's decision, the following provisions shall have effect, namely -
- (a) for a period of twenty-one days following the Minister's service of his decision or the final determination of an appeal upholding the Minister's decision, the Government shall have a right of first refusal to purchase the undertaking of the public supplier and, if the Government elects to purchase such undertaking, it shall, by written notice given to the public supplier within ten days of the expiration of the aforesaid twenty-one days of the Government's decision to effect such purchase, required the public supplier to sell its undertaking to the Government at a price to be determined and paid in accordance with subsection (3);
 - (b) if the Government does not elect to purchase the undertaking of the public supplier and if any other person is willing to purchase such undertaking, the Government may,

by notice in writing given to the public supplier within ten days of the expiration of the aforesaid twenty-one days of the Government's decision not to effect such a purchase, require the public supplier to sell its undertaking to such other person at a price to be determined and paid in accordance with subsection (3);

- (c) where the Government issues any notice under paragraph (b) requiring a public supplier to sell its undertaking, it may by such notice require the public supplier to deliver, and thereupon the public supplier shall deliver on the date specified in the notice, its undertaking, including all works, to the designated purchaser pending the determination and payment of the purchase price of the undertaking in accordance with subsection (3):

Provided that in any such case, the purchaser shall pay to the public supplier interest at the prevailing rate payable by commercial banks at the time of delivery, plus one percent per annum, on the purchase price of the undertaking for the period from the date of delivery to the date of payment of the purchase price;

- (d) where no notice has been issued under this subsection requiring a public supplier to sell its undertaking or where for any other reason no sale of the undertaking has been effected under this section, the public supplier shall have the option of selling or otherwise disposing of its undertaking in such manner and at such price as it may think fit:

Provided that, if the public supplier does not exercise such option within thirty days from the expiration of the ten day period hereinbefore referred to in this subsection, the Government may forthwith cause the works of the public supplier on, in, under, over, along, or across any land or street to be removed and every such street to be reinstated, and may recover the cost of such removal and reinstatement from the public supplier.

- (2) Unless otherwise agreed to by the public supplier and the purchaser, and with the consent of the Minister in instances in

which the Government is not the purchaser, where the undertaking of a public supplier is sold under subsection (1) (b), then upon the completion of the sale or on the date on which the undertaking is delivered to the intending purchaser under subsection (1) (c) -

- (a) the undertaking, including title or leasehold to all works and the liabilities of the undertaking, shall vest in the purchaser or the intending purchaser, as the case may be;
- (b) the rights, powers, authorities, duties and obligations of the public supplier under its licence shall stand transferred to the purchaser, with any modifications that may be agreed between the purchaser and the Minister in accordance with section 13, and such purchaser shall be deemed to be the licensee:

Provided that where the undertaking is sold or delivered to the Government, the licence shall cease to have further operation.

- (3) The following provisions shall have effect as to the determination and payment of the purchase price for the undertaking of a public supplier pursuant to this section, namely -
 - (a) where, after the revocation of a public supplier's licence under section 16, the undertaking of the public supplier is sold to the Government under subsection (1) (a) or to a person designated by the Government under subsection (1) (b), the purchase price to be paid by the Government or such person designated by the Government, as the case may be, shall be the fair market value of the undertaking, determined and paid in accordance with paragraphs (c) to (f), inclusive;
 - (b) within ten days after the Government's service of a notice upon a public supplier under subsection (1) (a) or (b), the Government, or the purchaser designated by the Government under subsection (1) (b), as the case may be, and the public supplier shall agree upon an independent and qualified valuator to determine the fair market value of the undertaking;
 - (c) the valuator appointed under paragraph (b) shall prepare and submit a report on the fair market value of the shares

and submit copies of the same to the public supplier, the shareholders or other owners of the public supplier's undertaking, the Minister, and, if the Government has designated a purchaser, to such designated purchaser;

- (d) the expenses incurred in determining the fair market value of an undertaking under the procedure set forth in paragraph (c) shall be borne by the public supplier and the purchaser of the undertaking equally;
- (e) for purposes of this section, "fair market value" means, and shall be determined as, the value of the net assets sold, whether of the various equity shares of the undertaking or of the undertaking itself, in an open and unrestricted market immediately prior to the Minister's service of notice of the revocation or non-extension of the licence, and determined without reference to any minority interests that may exist or any controlling shareholders so as to provide a comprehensive value, and determined with reference to the capitalization of future earnings of the undertaking on a going concern basis or with reference to the net fair value of the undertaking's assets and liabilities;
- (f) the purchase price for the sale of the undertaking of a public supplier shall be determined and paid in full to the public supplier within such time and in such manner as may be agreed upon between the public supplier and the purchaser and, where there is no such agreement, no later than twelve months after the Minister's service of written notice upon the public supplier under subsection (1) requiring such public supplier to sell its undertaking to the Government or to a person designated by the Government, as the case may be.

- (4) Any difference or dispute regarding the determination and date for payment of a purchase price or any other matter arising under this section shall be determined by arbitration in the manner provided in section 64 (2).

General powers and duties of licensees.

- 20. (1) It shall be the duty of a public supplier to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity supply, and to facilitate the use of alternative forms of electricity

generation using renewable resources wherever commercially feasible.

- (2) Subject to section 46, and except as otherwise provided in a licence granted under section 4 or an exemption granted under section 3, it shall be the duty of each public supplier to facilitate competition in the generation of electricity.
- (3) Except as otherwise provided in a licence granted under section 4 or an exemption granted under section 3, a public supplier may, in the course of its supply of electricity, locate and operate, outside its authorised area, its generating or power stations and any other facilities as it may consider necessary for providing the supply of electricity within its authorised area as required by the terms of its licence.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of this Act, of any regulations made thereunder, and of any licence granted under this Act, a public supplier may, for the purpose of supplying electricity under its licence, acquire lands by agreement, construct works, acquire licences for the use of any patented or protected processes, inventions, machinery, apparatus, methods, materials, or other things, enter into contracts, and generally do all acts and things necessary and incidental to those authorised purposes.

Supply of electricity by public suppliers.

21. Subject to the provisions of this Act and any regulations made thereunder, a public supplier shall, upon being requested to do so by the owner or occupier of any premises (hereinafter referred to as a “consumer”) within such public supplier’s authorised area -
 - (a) provide a new or increased supply of electricity to those premises; and
 - (b) provide electric lines, meters and other apparatus as are necessary to supply electricity to the point of entry to those premises.

Notice of requirement of a supply of electricity.

22. Where any consumer requires a supply of electricity as provided in section 21, he shall give to the public supplier a notice in writing specifying -
 - (a) the premises for which the supply is required;
 - (b) the day on which the supply is required to commence;

- (c) the maximum power which may be required at any time; and
- (d) the minimum period for which the supply is required to be given.
- Contract for supply of electricity.
23. Where a public supplier receives a notice from a consumer under section 22, the public supplier shall give to that consumer a notice that -
- (a) states the extent to which the proposals specified in the consumer's notice are acceptable to the public supplier and specifies any counterproposals made by the public supplier;
- (b) states whether the rates to be charged by the public supplier will be determined under sections 26 to 28, inclusive, or by a special agreement between the public supplier and the consumer under section 29, and specifies the rates to be charged or the proposed terms of the agreement;
- (c) specifies any payment which that consumer will be required to make for the public supplier's provision of electric lines, meters or other apparatus as permitted under section 26 (4);
- (d) specifies any security deposit which the consumer will be required to give under section 28;
- (e) specifies any other terms which that consumer will be required to accept under section 25 and the Third Schedule; and
- (f) states the procedures for the resolution of any disputes between the public supplier and the consumer as provided for in Part X of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999,
- and the written acceptance of such notice by the consumer requiring a supply of electricity and the public supplier's supply of electricity pursuant thereto shall constitute a contract between such consumer and the public supplier for the supply of electricity in accordance with this Act and any regulations made thereunder.
- Third Schedule
- No. ___ of 1999
- Exceptions to requirement to supply electricity.
24. Nothing in this Act shall require a public supplier to supply electricity to any premises if and to the extent that -
- (a) the public supplier is prevented from doing so by circumstances not within its control;

- (b) the public supplier might or would be in breach of this Act, the regulations made thereunder, or of the licence granted to it, and it has taken all reasonable steps to prevent such breach or violation; or
- (c) it is not reasonable in all the circumstances for the public supplier to be required to do so.

Power to require acceptance of restrictions upon supply of electricity.

25. A public supplier may require any consumer who requests a supply of electricity to accept in respect of the supply any restrictions that must be imposed for the purpose of enabling the public supplier to comply with this Act, the regulations made thereunder, and the terms of the licence granted to it.

Rates for the supply of electricity: general provisions.

26. (1) Subject to provisions of this Act, the rates to be charged by a public supplier for the supply of electricity by it shall be in accordance with such rates as may be fixed from time to time by the Commission in accordance with this Act and the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999.

No. of 1999

- (2) Subject to section 29, the rates to be charged by a public supplier shall not show undue preference for, or unduly discriminate against, any consumer or class of consumers similarly situated:

Provided that different rates may be prescribed for different classes of consumers, whether by reference to the different purposes for which electricity is supplied, the different times of the day at which electricity is supplied, the different areas of supply or different parts of such areas, the extent to which the supply of electricity is taken up, or to any other relevant circumstance.

- (3) Subject to section 27, a rate for the supply of electricity by a public supplier, fixed by the Commission under subsections (1) and (2) and the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999 -

No. of 1999

- (a) shall be disclosed in such a manner as to show the methods or formulae by which and the principles on which the charges are to be made as well as the prices which are to be charged;
- (b) shall be published in a daily newspaper;

- (c) may include a standing charge in addition to the charge for the actual electricity supplied;
- (d) may include a charge in respect of the availability of a supply of electricity and may vary to the extent that the supply is taken up;
- (e) may include a rent or other charge in respect of any electricity meter or other electrical apparatus or fitting provided by the public supplier on the premises to which it supplies electricity;
- (f) may include adjustments for variations in the cost of fuel and variations in the foreign exchange rate; and
- (g) may include a charge in respect of unsatisfactory power factor of the consumer's electric load.

Third Schedule

- (4) Subject to the Third Schedule and section 30, where any electric line or other electrical apparatus is provided by a public supplier pursuant to a request by any consumer for a supply of electricity, the public supplier may require any expenses reasonably incurred or estimated to be incurred in providing such supply of electricity to be defrayed by the consumer requiring the supply.

Rates for the supply of electricity: Guyana Electricity Corporation and Guyana Power & Light, Inc.

Second Schedule
First Schedule

- 27. (1) Prior to and on January 1, 2001, the headline rates, actual rates and basic rates to be charged by the Guyana Electricity Corporation and Guyana Power & Light, Inc., for the supply of electricity and services shall be those determined in accordance with the Second Schedule.
- (2) On and after January 1, 2001, the First Schedule and the licence granted by the Minister to Guyana Power & Light, Inc. under section 42 shall govern the rates for the supply of electricity and services at any time charged and to be charged by Guyana Power & Light, Inc., and the mechanisms, formulae, principles and procedures whereby such rates shall be calculated and determined for all purposes under this Act and the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999.

No. ___ of 1999

Power to require security for the payment of sums due for the supply of electricity.

28. (1) Subject to this section, a public supplier may require any consumer who requests a supply of electricity to give reasonable security for the payment of any sums which may become due in respect of the supply or any electric line or other electrical apparatus provided by the public supplier, and if such consumer fails to give such security, the public supplier may, if it thinks fit, refuse to provide the supply of electricity or such electric line or other electrical apparatus.
- (2) Where any consumer has not given the security provided for in subsection (1), or where the security given by any consumer has become invalid or insufficient -
- (a) the public supplier may by notice require that consumer, within ten days of the date of the notice, to give the public supplier reasonable security for the payment of any sum which may become due to it in respect of the supply; and
- (b) if that consumer fails to give such security the public supplier may, if it thinks fit, discontinue the supply for so long as the failure continues:

Provided that any notice given by a public supplier under this subsection shall include an explanation of the dispute resolution procedure provided for in Part X of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999.

No. ___ of 1999

- (3) Where any security is deposited with a public supplier in accordance with this section, the public supplier shall pay compound interest thereon at the rate of seven percent per annum:

Provided that no interest shall be payable by a public supplier under this subsection or under the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999 on any sum held by the public supplier for a period of less than six months.

No. ___ of 1999

- (4) A security deposit shall be returned to the consumer who made it on the termination of the supply of electricity by the public supplier, subject to any deduction therefrom of any amounts due to the public supplier by that consumer.

- (5) A public supplier shall not be entitled to require security under this section in respect of the supply of electricity if the consumer is supplied through a pre-payment meter:

Provided that this restriction does not limit the right of the public supplier to require a customer contribution in respect of any electric line or other electrical apparatus provided by the public supplier.

Special agreements for
the supply of electricity.
Third Schedule

No. ___ of 1999

29. (1) Notwithstanding anything in sections 21 to 28, inclusive, and the Third Schedule, a consumer who requires a supply of electricity may enter into a special agreement with a public supplier for the supply on such terms as may be specified in the agreement, and, upon approval by the Commission of such special agreement pursuant to section 40 (2) of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999, the public supplier may demand and receive money from such consumer in accordance with the terms of the special agreement.

Third Schedule

- (2) So long as a special agreement concluded and approved in accordance with subsection (1) is effective, the rights and liabilities of the parties to the agreement shall be those arising under the agreement and, to the extent that any provision of sections 21 to 28, inclusive, or the Third Schedule conflict with the terms of the special agreement, the special agreement shall prevail.

Schedules

- (3) Any consumer who is a party to a special agreement with a public supplier under this section may give the public supplier a notice under section 22 requesting that, on the day on which the special agreement ceases to be effective, the public supplier commence providing such consumer with a supply of electricity in accordance with sections 21 to 28, inclusive, and the Schedules.

Regulations for the
supply of electricity to
the public.
Third Schedule

30. The provisions of sections 21 to 29, inclusive, the Third Schedule and the regulations made under this Act shall have effect, subject to such restrictions, exceptions, modifications and conditions as may be included by the Minister in a licence, in relation to every licence granted to a public supplier under this Act:

Provided that, where in a licence separate provision is made in substitution of any of the provisions mentioned, such substituted provisions shall apply in respect of the licence in lieu thereof.

- Technical standards and powers applicable to public suppliers.
31. North American or European technical standards shall apply to every licence granted under this Act, subject to such restrictions, exceptions, modifications and conditions as may be included by the Minister in a licence or embodied in regulations made under this Act.
- Acquisition of lands.
Cap. 62:05
32. (1) The Minister may in accordance with the Acquisition of Lands for Public Purposes Act compulsorily acquire land for and on behalf of a public supplier for the purpose of the proper and effectual exercise of a licence granted to the public supplier under section 4 or an exemption granted under section 3.
- (2) In order for the Minister to proceed under subsection (1), the public supplier shall expressly request the Minister to acquire the land, satisfying the Minister from documentary evidence, including plans and studies, that the land is required so that the public supplier may adequately fulfill the conditions of its licence.
- (3) The Minister shall not proceed to acquire land under this section unless he is satisfied that the public supplier is able to make prompt payment to any person entitled to compensation for the land in consequence of such compulsory acquisition, of a sum which represents the fair market value of the land, whereupon the land being vested in the State the land is transferred by deed to the public supplier by the Minister.
- (4) The Minister shall not acquire land under this section if the land belongs to another public supplier and is being used for the purpose of an installation necessary to carry on activities authorised by such other public supplier's licence, or it appears to the Minister that the land will be so used by such other public supplier and that the use will commence within the period of five years beginning with the proposed date of the commencement of the acquisition.
- (5) Where land is acquired under this section and the land is no longer required for the purpose for which it is acquired, the Minister shall have the authority to re-vest by deed of transfer the land in the proprietor from whom it was compulsorily acquired subject to the refund of the compensation, and subsection (6) shall mutatis mutandis apply in relation to the re-vesting of the land as it applies on the transfer to the public supplier.

- (6) Where land is transferred to a public supplier under subsection (3), the land shall vest in the public supplier from the date of such transfer and
- (a) a notice to that effect shall be published in the Gazette;
 - (b) the deed of transfer shall be treated for all purposes as if it were a transport or other document effecting the conveyance of immovable property, and the Registrar of Deeds shall take due notice thereof and shall make such annotations on the records as may be necessary, including an annotation that the public supplier shall not dispose of such land or any interest or right in or over it, except with the written consent of the Minister.
- (7) A public supplier who has acquired any land by virtue of this section shall not dispose of that land or of any interest in or right over it except with the consent of the Minister.
- (8) Subject to the preceding subsections, the Acquisition of Lands for Public Purposes Act, shall apply mutatis mutandis in relation to the acquisition of lands under this section as they apply in relation to an acquisition wholly under the Acquisition of Lands for Public Purposes Act, and for that purpose shall be construed with any necessary modifications, adaptations, qualifications and exceptions, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, subject, in particular, for the purpose of such application, to the following modifications -
- (a) the proper and effectual exercise of its licence by a public supplier shall be deemed to be a public work, that is to say, whatever is to be done or constructed on the land shall be deemed to be a public work;
 - (b) sections 7 (2), 10, 24, 26 and 27 shall not apply to an acquisition under this section;
 - (c) in section 9 (1) there shall be substituted for the words "and may at the same time or any subsequent time deposit a certificate under his hand to the effect that the National Assembly has voted the sum necessary for compensation" the words "and shall at the same time, where the proprietor has received compensation, deposit a certified copy of the

Cap. 62:05

receipt therefor; where arrangements satisfactory to the proprietor have been made for the payment of compensation, deposit a certified copy thereof; or where compensation is to be determined, deposit a statement showing how and in what manner this is to be effected”

(9) In this section “Minister” means the minister assigned responsibility for works.

Conditions under which a public supplier may break up streets, etc.

33. (1) A public supplier from time to time for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and renewing any electric lines duly authorised, or any part or parts thereof, or for the purpose of erecting, removing, repairing or maintaining pillars or poles for stringing wires to convey electricity, may open and break up the soil and pavement of any road, street, bridge, lane or public place along the routes of those electric lines and may erect pillars, poles, lamps and works therein subject to the following conditions -
- (a) the public supplier shall give to the road authority notice of its intention, specifying the time at which it will begin to do so and the portion of the road, street or bridge proposed to be opened or broken up, the notice to be given seven days at least before the commencement of the work unless the work is to remedy a dangerous situation or a situation that has interrupted or imminently threatens to interrupt the supply of electricity, in which case notice may be dispensed with;
 - (b) the public supplier shall not open or break up the soil and pavement of any road, street, bridge, lane or public place except under the superintendence and to the reasonable satisfaction of the road authority, unless that authority refuses or neglects to give superintendence at the time specified in the notice, or discontinues it during the work, or unless the work is to remedy a dangerous situation or a situation that has interrupted or imminently threatens to interrupt the supply of electricity, in which case superintendence may be dispensed with;
 - (c) the public supplier shall not erect any pillar or pole in a position to which the road authority reasonably objects;

- (d) the public supplier shall pay all reasonable expenses to which the road authority is put on account of superintendence;
- (e) the public supplier shall not, without the consent of the road authority, open or break up any road, street, bridge, lane or public place without providing reasonable facilities for the passage of the ordinary traffic on that road, street or bridge, to the satisfaction of the road authority.

(2) When the public supplier has opened or broken up any portion of the road, street, bridge, lane or public place, it shall be under the following further obligations -

- (a) it shall with all convenient speed, and in all cases within four weeks at the most (unless the road authority otherwise consents in writing), complete the work on account of which it opened or broke up the road, street, bridge, lane or public place (subject to the construction, maintenance or removal of electric lines), and fill in the ground and make good the surface and, to the reasonable satisfaction of the road authority, restore the portion of the road, street, bridge, lane or public place, to as good condition as that in which it was before it was opened or broken up, and clear away all surplus paving, or other material or rubbish, occasioned thereby;
- (b) it shall in the meantime cause the place where the road, street, bridge, lane or public place is opened or broken up to be protected at night.

(3) If the public supplier aforesaid fails to comply in any respect with this section, it shall for each offence (without prejudice to the enforcement of specific performance of the requirements of this Act or to any other remedy against it) be liable to a fine of ten thousand dollars, and to a further fine of five hundred dollars for each day during which the failure to comply continues after the first day on which notice to comply therewith has been served on the public supplier.

▶ Consent of local Government authority.

34. Notwithstanding anything in this Act or in any written law, a public supplier shall not be authorised to place any electric line along, over, under or across any road, street, bridge, lane or other public place without the

express consent of the local Government authority, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, and the local Government authority may require the public supplier to remove forthwith any electric line placed by it contrary to this section; and where any electric line has been placed ground by the public supplier in any position, the Commission, upon complaint made, if it is of the reasonable opinion that that line is or is likely to become dangerous to the public safety, may, notwithstanding any such consent as aforesaid, make an order directing and authorising the removal of the line by the public supplier and upon any terms it thinks fit:

Provided that no local Government authority may remove, or require the removal of, any electric line that was put into place by a public supplier more than six months after such electric line was installed, or that was in place on the appointed day.

Conditions under which a public supplier may alter position of pipes and wires.

35. Subject to the provisions of this Act, a licence or any written law authorising a public supplier to supply electricity, and to any regulations made under this Act, a public supplier may alter the position of any pipes or wires, being under or upon any street or place authorised to be broken up by them, which may interfere with the exercise of its powers under this Act, on previously making or securing such compensation to the owners of the pipes or wires, and on complying with such conditions as to the mode of making the alterations as are, before the commencement of the alterations, agreed between the public supplier and the owners.

Mode of effecting alteration of position of "obstruction."

36. (1) If a public supplier, in operating its works, considers that the position of any water or sewage main drain, water-course, culvert, subway, defence, tube, wire, apparatus for telegraphic or other purposes (in this section referred to as "obstruction"), or of any other existing matter or thing, is likely to cause frequent interruption of such public supplier's undertaking by repairs or renewals and ought to be altered, the public supplier, in operating its works, shall not alter the position of any obstruction, but shall give notice to the person, body or local Government authority to whom any obstruction belongs, or under whose control any obstruction is, that the public supplier is of the opinion that the position of any obstruction should be altered, and if the person, body or local Government authority is unable to agree with the public supplier as to the necessity for, or the manner of, any alteration of the position of the obstruction, the matter shall be determined by arbitration.

- (2) If the person, body or local Government authority agrees upon, or the award in an arbitration directs, the alteration of the position of any obstruction, the work of the alteration shall be immediately carried out by the person, body or local Government authority concerned.
- (3) A work of alteration shall be carried out in accordance with any plan agreed upon or directed by the award in the arbitration.
- Cutting trees, boughs and other vegetation 37. (1) In the course of constructing and for the more effective working of its undertaking, a public supplier shall have power, by officers and servants duly authorised for that purpose in writing, to cut and remove from any street and to enter upon and to cut and remove from any private or public land any tree or other vegetation, or any branch, bough or other part thereof, growing on such land within one hundred feet of any supply line and which may tend to interfere with, endanger or otherwise prejudicially affect the working of its undertaking.
- (2) A public supplier shall make compensation to the owner of any tree or other vegetation so cut for any damage suffered by the owner in respect thereof, and the amount of such compensation shall, in the event of disagreement, be determined by arbitration.
- Sustainability programmes. 38. (1) Every public supplier shall, in accordance with the provisions of its licence, develop and maintain -
- (a) an annual sustainability programme; and
- (b) a five-year sustainability programme that is revised on an annual basis,
- containing the information required by subsection (2).
- (2) The sustainability programmes developed and maintained by a public supplier shall contain detailed descriptions of and data on -
- (a) the plans and projections through which the public supplier will achieve and sustain the customer service, engineering and technical standards necessary for the public supplier's efficient, co-ordinated and economical supply of electricity under the terms of its licence;

- (b) the benefits to be accrued to consumers of the service rendered, and the engineering and technical standards to be achieved and maintained, by the public utility as a result of the implementation of the programmes, and the rationale therefor;
 - (c) a development and expansion programme setting forth the plans and projections through which the public supplier will develop and expand its facilities and services to be provided to consumers;
 - (d) the operating costs and capital expenditures of the programmes;
 - (e) the sources and amounts of revenues necessary to finance the programmes, including the proposed or actual costs, terms and sources of any debt or equity financing commitments necessary to carry out the programmes and any bids actually, or anticipated to be, received by the public supplier;
 - (f) the debt to equity ratio tolerances to be maintained by the public supplier in implementing the programmes;
 - (g) the timing, amounts and terms of any issuance of securities contemplated by the public utility for the financing of the programmes and the persons to whom they will, or are anticipated to, be offered or issued;
 - (h) the impact that the programmes are expected to have upon the natural and social environment;
 - (i) the extent to which the programmes facilitate the use of alternative forms of electricity generation using renewable resources and the commercial feasibility thereof; and
 - (j) any other aspect of the programmes which the Minister may direct.
- (3) (a) Subject to the terms of its licence, every public supplier shall, no later than sixty days prior to the end of each of its financial years, submit seven copies of its annual development and expansion programme and a current

No. ____ of 1999

version of its five-year development and expansion programme, as approved by the governing body of the public supplier, to the Commission for approval in accordance with Part VII of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999.

(b) Concurrently with submission of its development and expansion programmes to the Commission, a public supplier shall provide copies of such programmes to the Minister and to the Agency.

(4) (a) Where the Commission is required to approve the development and expansion programmes of a public supplier, the information required to be contained in a development and expansion programme under subsection (2) shall be considered by the Commission, after receiving the views of the Minister and the Agency, if any, in the Commission's determination of whether to approve, reject or require modifications in the programmes submitted by a public utility, as provided in section 28 (2) of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999.

No. ____ of 1999

(b) In addition to the specific criteria mentioned in subsection (2) and section 28 (2) of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999, the Commission shall take into account prudent engineering standards and a reasonable assessment of costs in making its decision whether to approve, reject or require modifications in the development and expansion programmes of a public utility.

(5) During the course of its implementation of a development and expansion programme, a public supplier may amend the programme to the extent that such amendment is required to -

(a) address operational emergencies or causes which are outside the control of the public supplier and cannot be avoided by the exercise of due care;

(b) implement the programme or otherwise to supply electricity under the terms of the licence granted to the public supplier, in a commercially prudent manner; and

- (c) maintain the balance between the public supplier's growth plans, its operating and service standards, and the need to preserve its financial integrity, in accordance with commercially reasonable practices of North American or European electric utilities:

Provided that, prior to making such an amendment, the public supplier shall comply with the provisions of its licence with respect to the approval of such amendment, and shall notify the Commission of the amendment and the reason therefor and receive if necessary under the terms of its licence, shall obtain the Commission's approval, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld and, in the case of an amendment under paragraph (a), shall be granted or denied within twenty-four hours of notification:

Provided further that, if necessary under the terms of its licence, the public supplier shall include an explanation of, and relevant information and data on, such amendment in the development and expansion programme that the public supplier next submits to the Commission for approval.

Keeping and rendering books, accounts, papers and other records.
No. ___ of 1999

- 39. Except as otherwise provided in its licence, a public supplier shall keep and render its books, accounts, papers and other records in accordance with sections 48, 49 and 83 of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999, and with any other applicable law.

Accounting and information reporting requirements.

- 40. (1) Within four months after the end of its financial year or within such longer period as may be determined by the Minister, where circumstances so justify, a public supplier shall deliver to the Minister -
 - (a) the audited financial statements, auditor's report, and other reports, information and documents required to be submitted under sections 153 to 186, inclusive, of the Companies Act 1991 and the Schedules thereto;
 - (b) to the extent not otherwise expressly set forth in a report or statement prepared under paragraph (a), a report -
 - (i) projecting, in terms of indicators as to financial, investment, customer service and engineering and

No. 29 of 1991

- other technical performance, the performance of the public supplier and its subsidiaries, if any, for the current financial year;
- (ii) in terms of such indicators, comparing the performance projected in such report for the financial year just ended, with the actual performance of the public utility and its subsidiaries, if any, for the financial year just ended; and
- (c) any other information that the Minister may by regulation prescribe.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) (b), a public supplier shall make available, and shall sell to any applicant for a price not exceeding the actual cost of printing, copies of the reports, statements, information and documents prepared under subsection (1) (a).
- (3) (a) With regard to the reports, statements, information and documents submitted to the Minister under this Act and any regulations made thereunder, the Minister and the Agency shall have a duty to maintain in confidence any information contained in such submissions that constitutes a trade secret, third party confidential information, or information that may aid a competitor of the public supplier, and the Minister and the Agency shall cooperate with the public supplier in that regard.
- (b) A public supplier may omit from the copies of the submissions that it is required to make publicly available under subsection (2) any information that constitutes a trade secret, third party confidential information, or information that may aid a competitor of the public supplier.
- (4) It shall be the duty of the Minister to require public suppliers to provide, and a public supplier shall have a duty to provide, such additional information as the Minister finds necessary -
- (a) to provide consumers and other members of the public with adequate information on the public supplier as such information affects their interests;

- (b) to perform his duties and discharge his functions under this Act; and
 - (c) otherwise to assist in the formulation and carrying out of the national energy policy of Guyana in matters involving electricity.
- Information and reports to be provided by private suppliers. 41. A private supplier shall provide the Minister with such information and reports, in such form, as the Minister may determine or may by regulations prescribe.

PART III

REFORM OF THE ELECTRICITY SECTOR

- Creation of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. and related provisions.
No. 29 of 1991
42. (1) Guyana Power & Light, Inc. shall be constituted as a public company limited by shares on or before the appointed day by the submission to the Registrar of Companies of the articles of incorporation and the other documents that are required under the Companies Act 1991, and by the issuance of a certificate of incorporation.
- No. ____ of 1999
- (2) Prior to the appointed day, the Minister shall make an order under section 3 (1) of the Corporations (Provision for Conversion into Public Companies) Act 1999 for the conversion of the Guyana Electricity Corporation into a public company limited by shares on the appointed day, and the Guyana Electricity Corporation shall file the documents required under section 3 (2) of that Act with the Registrar of Companies.
- (3) With effect from the appointed day -
- (a) the Guyana Electricity Corporation shall be deemed to be a public company limited by shares;
 - (b) the Electricity Act and the Electric Lighting Act shall stand repealed;
- Cap. 56:01
Cap. 56:02

Cap. 56:01

- (c) the exclusive right to supply electricity granted to the Guyana Electricity Corporation under the Electricity Act shall stand terminated, and the Minister shall issue a licence to Guyana Power & Light, Inc., under section 4 without the need for any application therefor from Guyana Power & Light, Inc.; and
 - (d) all of the person who were directors of the Guyana Electricity Corporation immediately before the appointed day shall cease to be directors of that company.
- (4) (a) The Minister is hereby empowered to make a vesting order with respect to the transfer and vesting of:-
- (i) such assets and liabilities related to the undertaking of the Guyana Electricity Corporation as may be specified by the Minister in the said order; and
 - (ii) the following -
 - (A) assets relating to the undertaking of the Guyana Electricity Corporation held by the Government, the Guyana Sugar Corporation Limited, Lochaber Limited and other entities owned by the State or in which the controlling interest is vested in the State or any agency or other entity on behalf of the State;
 - (B) all easements, way-leaves and rights-of-way, and rights and claims thereto, necessary for the ownership, operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of the electrical installations of the Guyana Electricity Corporation, as such easements, way-leaves and rights-of-way, and rights and claims thereto, exist on the appointed day;
 - (C) the property referred to in section 45 (d);
 - (D) the rights and obligations of the Guyana Electricity Corporation under leases and other contracts, policies of insurance,

licences and permits as set forth in the said order; and

- (E) any other property, right or obligation as may be necessary to effect the transaction provided for in this section.

- (b) The vesting order issued under this subsection may provide for the transfer of the employees of the Guyana Electricity Corporation to Guyana Power & Light, Inc. and the rights and obligations of the Guyana Electricity Corporation under collective labour agreements relating to the employees transferred.

- (c) The vesting order issued under this subsection shall include an opening balance sheet for Guyana Power & Light, Inc., and the value of the assets and liabilities of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. as of the appointed day shall be as set out in such opening balance sheet.

- (d) All transfers of assets effected under this section shall be made free and clear of all liabilities, claims, interests, rights and other encumbrances in or over such assets except and to the extent that any such liability, claim, interest, right or other encumbrance is set out in the vesting order to be issued under this subsection; and all liabilities, claims, interests, rights and other encumbrances not set out in such vesting order shall remain that of the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc.

- (e) Where an order referred to in this subsection vests or transfers immovable property to Guyana Power & Light, Inc., the order shall be treated for all purposes as if it were a transport or other document effecting the conveyance of immovable property, and the Registrar of Deeds shall take due notice thereof; and the order shall be registered by the Registrar of Deeds under section 12 (3) of the Deeds Registry Act as if it were a transport and filed as of record in the Deeds Registry; and the Registrar shall make such annotations as may be necessary and shall issue new transports to Guyana Power & Light, Inc., in furtherance of the transaction provided for in this subsection.

(f) Sections 5, 8, and 11 and any other applicable provisions of the Public Corporations Act 1988 not in conflict with this Act or with effecting the transaction provided for in this section shall mutatis mutandis apply to an order made under this section.

(5) Nothing effected or authorised by this Act -

(a) shall be regarded as placing the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc., Guyana Power & Light, Inc., or any other person in breach of contract or confidence or as otherwise making any of them guilty of a civil wrong; or

(b) shall be regarded as giving rise to a right for any person to terminate or cancel any contract or arrangement or to accelerate the performance of any obligation; or

(c) shall be regarded as placing the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc., or Guyana Power & Light, Inc., or any other person in breach of any enactment or rule of law or contractual provision prohibiting, restricting, or regulating the assignment or transfer of any property or the disclosure of any information; or

(d) shall release any surety wholly or in part from any obligation; or

(e) shall invalidate or discharge any contract or security, all of which shall continue in effect in accordance with the vesting order made under subsection (4) and in accordance with subsections (9) and (10).

No. 29 of 1991
No. ___ of 1999

(6) Notwithstanding anything in the Companies Act 1991 and the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999, Guyana Power & Light, Inc. may issue shares to the Strategic Investor and to the Government, and any memoranda from the Minister to the Registrar regarding the consideration for shares issued to the Government at any time shall be accepted by the Registrar as valid for purposes of satisfying the requirements of section 28 (6) of the Companies Act 1991.

No. 29 of 1991

No. 29 of 1991

(7) Notwithstanding anything in the provisions of Division C of Part IV of the Companies Act 1991, Guyana Power & Light, Inc. shall not be construed to be a Government company and shall not be subject to such provisions.

No. 29 of 1991

(8) For purposes of Guyana Power & Light, Inc.'s determination of the declaration and payment of dividends in relation to section 50 (3) of the Companies Act 1991, the term "realisable value" means the carrying value of the assets of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. on its audited accounts, valued on the basis that the company is a going concern.

(9) All liabilities of the Guyana Electricity Corporation subsisting immediately before the appointed day other than the transferred liabilities referred to in subsection (4) shall remain with the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc., and shall be discharged by it:

Provided that no lien, judgment or other encumbrance shall be permitted against the accounts receivable of the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc., or the assets of the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc., leased to or otherwise utilised in the operation of Guyana Power & Light, Inc.:

Provided further that any judgment against the Guyana Electricity Corporation or the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc. that cannot be satisfied by the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc. shall be satisfied in the manner provided for in subsection (10).

(10) Any person who suffers any direct loss to property or any right in the nature of property owing to subsection (12) (a) or the operation of the order made under subsection (4), or who otherwise has a claim against the Guyana Electricity Corporation or the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc., which direct loss or claim cannot be recovered from the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc., shall be entitled to receive from the Government such compensation as may be determined by agreement between that person and the Government or, in the absence of such agreement, by the High Court upon motion moved for that purpose by or against the Attorney General; and with respect any such direct loss to property or any right in the nature of property, any such compensation shall

be determined based on the fair market value of such property or right in the nature of property.

- (11) The Minister may grant to Guyana Power & Light, Inc., in the licence to be issued under subsection (3) (c) and at no charge to Guyana Power & Light, Inc., such easements, way-leaves and rights-of-way across lands owned by the Government or any local Government authority, or any entity owned or controlled by the Government or any local Government authority, and access thereto, as may be necessary for Guyana Power & Light, Inc. to carry out its licensed activities.
- (12) (a) Guyana Power and Light, Inc. shall be deemed to have all necessary rights for the placement, construction, inspection, maintenance, and repair of all of Guyana Power & Light, Inc.'s electrical installations located along, over, under or across lands owned by private persons, as every such electrical installation exists on the appointed day; and, with respect to the placement, construction, maintenance and repair of additional electrical installations to be located along, over, under or across lands owned by private persons as become necessary after the appointed day for Guyana Power & Light, Inc. to carry out its licensed activities, Guyana Power & Light, Inc. shall seek permission of such private persons.
- (b) Where permission sought by Guyana Power & Light, Inc. from a private under paragraph (a) is not granted, Guyana Power & Light, Inc. may request the Minister to exercise his powers under section 32 to acquire any land that may be necessary for the purposes mentioned in paragraph (a), and the Minister shall exercise the powers vested in him under section 32 to acquire such land for and on behalf of Guyana Power & Light, Inc.
- (c) Where permission sought by Guyana Power & Light, Inc. from a private person under paragraph (a) is granted, Guyana Power & Light, Inc. shall pay to such private person a fee which represents a fair market value for the use of such land by Guyana Power & Light, Inc., and any person who is not satisfied with the fee offered by Guyana Power & Light, Inc. may appeal to the High Court, which may make an award of compensation equal to the fair

market value for the use of such land taking into account the level of fees paid by Guyana Power & Light, Inc. under similar existing arrangements.

- (d) Guyana Power & Light, Inc. may, at reasonable times and upon three days notice to the owner, enter upon the land referred to in this subsection for the purpose of placing, constructing, inspecting, maintaining and repairing its electrical installations:

Provided that, in the event of an emergency, Guyana Power & Light, Inc. may enter upon such land without notice to the owner thereof to perform any act necessary to ensure the proper or efficient operation of its electrical installations.

- (e) Guyana Power & Light, Inc. shall keep the owners of the land referred to in this subsection indemnified against all actions, claims and demands that may be lawfully brought or made against such owners in respect of loss or damage to property or personal injuries suffered on such land by reason of the negligent acts of Guyana Power & Light, Inc., its officers, employees, subcontractors, and agents, in the exercise of the rights granted to Guyana Power & Light, Inc.:

Provided that Guyana Power & Light, Inc. shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage resulting from the negligent acts, or misuse of such land by the owner thereof or any third party.

- (f) Where any electrical installation of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. located on land owned by a private person is no longer required in order for Guyana Power & Light, Inc. to carry out its licensed activities, Guyana Power & Light, Inc. shall remove the same and restore such land to an acceptable state and condition.
- (g) For purposes of this subsection and subsection (4), "electrical installation" means any electrical line, and any casing, coating, covering, tube, pipe or insulator enclosing, surrounding, or supporting the same, and any apparatus connected therewith, and any other apparatus or equipment,

for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, distributing or otherwise supplying electricity.

(h) "Private person" means any person other than the persons mentioned in subsection (11).

Transitional orders; no requirement for a licence for Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc.

43. (1) The Minister may, at the request of the Board of Directors of Guyana Power & Light, Inc., by order make such other provisions as are necessary or expedient to facilitate the transfer of the agreed upon assets, liabilities and undertaking of the Guyana Electricity Corporation or the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc., and to effect the transaction provided for in section 42.

No. 29 of 1991

(2) The Minister assigned responsibility for the Companies Act 1991 may by order provide for the following -

- (a) that the redemption by Guyana Power & Light, Inc., of Class B preference shares issued to the Government through the issue of one or more debentures and, thereafter, the reduction accordingly of the preference share capital account of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. shall be without any impact on the profits and revenue reserves of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. otherwise available for dividends or redemption of shares, notwithstanding sections 40 (2) and (3) of the Companies Act 1991;
- (b) that the directors of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. may be appointed as agreed between the Strategic Investor and the Government, notwithstanding section 68 of the Companies Act 1991;
- (c) that the restrictions on the transfer of the common and preference shares and special share of Guyana Power & Light, Inc., and the debenture issued to the Government by Guyana Power & Light, Inc. shall be as agreed between the Strategic Investor and the Government and as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of Guyana Power & Light, Inc., notwithstanding section 200 (1), (3) and (4) of the Companies Act 1991; and
- (d) that voting by directors of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. on related party matters shall be valid as agreed between the

Strategic Investor and the Government, notwithstanding sections 90 to 93, inclusive, of the Companies Act 1991.

- (3) The Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc. shall not be required to obtain a licence under this Act or any other law for the ownership, or lease to Guyana Power & Light, Inc., of any assets of the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc., to be utilised by Guyana Power & Light, Inc. to supply electricity.

Applicability of the Act and commercial principles to operations of Guyana Power & Light, Inc.

44. With effect from the appointed day, Guyana Power & Light, Inc. shall be -
- (a) subject to the provisions of this Act; and
 - (b) operated in accordance with commercial principles, including but not limited to commercial procurement principles.

Employees.

45. With effect from the appointed day -
- (a) for the purposes of every law, determination or agreement relating to the employment of each of the employees of the Guyana Electricity Corporation transferred to Guyana Power & Light, Inc. in accordance with the vesting order made section 42 (4), such employment shall be deemed to have been unbroken and the period of service of each such employee with the Guyana Electricity Corporation, and every other period of service of that employee that is recognised as continuous service with the Guyana Electricity Corporation, shall be deemed to have been a period of service with Guyana Power & Light, Inc.;
 - (b) the terms and conditions of employment of each employee referred to in paragraph (a) shall, until varied, be identical with the terms and conditions of that employee's employment with the Guyana Electricity Corporation immediately before the appointed day and be capable of variation in the same manner;
 - (c) no such employee shall be entitled to receive any payment or other benefit by reason of this Act; and
 - (d) any property held in trust or vested in any person under any provident, benefit, superannuation, or retirement or pension fund or scheme for the employees of the Guyana Electricity Corporation or their dependants or other persons immediately before the appointed day shall, on and after the appointed day, be deemed to be held in

trust or vested in that person for those employees in their capacity as employees of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. or their dependants or other persons on the same terms and conditions; and every reference in any instrument constituting that fund or scheme to the Guyana Electricity Corporation or an employee of the Guyana Electricity Corporation or a dependant of that employee or any other person shall be read and construed as a reference to Guyana Power & Light, Inc. or an employee of Guyana Power & Light, Inc., or a dependant of that employee or any other person, as the case may be; and any pension scheme that was, immediately before the appointed day, a registered pension scheme within the meaning of the law shall continue to be a registered pension scheme on and after the appointed day.

- Projects for the generation of electricity. 46. Subject to sections 4 (c) and 49, except as otherwise provided in a licence granted in accordance with section 4 or an agreement between the Government and the Strategic Investor, independent power production projects for the generation of electricity may be developed in and licensed for the area in which Guyana Power & Light, Inc. is authorised by section 42 (3) (c) to transmit and distribute electricity only if the governing bodies of Guyana Power & Light, Inc. and the independent power producer have first approved the terms and conditions upon which such electricity will be purchased by Guyana Power & Light, Inc., and such terms and conditions insofar as they relate to rates have further been approved by the Commission, and the Minister is satisfied that the criteria of 4 (1) (c) (ii) will be met by the proposed independent power production project.
- Savings of effect of section 47 (2) of the Electricity Sector Reform Act 1997. No. 30 of 1997 47. Notwithstanding section 71, where any person has been granted a licence under section 47 (2) of the Electricity Sector Reform Act 1997, such licence shall, with effect from the appointed day, remain in force and effect in accordance with its terms.
- Construction or expansion of installations or capacity for electricity generation. 48. Except as otherwise provided in a licence granted pursuant to this Act, the consent of the Minister shall be required for the new construction or the expansion of any installation or capacity for the generation of electricity.
- Rural electrification programmes. 49. (1) The Minister may, subject to the terms and conditions of a public supplier's licence, request a public supplier to implement rural electrification programmes from time to time for any premises or geographical area within the authorised area of such public supplier, and the public supplier shall accede to any such request,

on terms and conditions agreeable to both the Minister and the public supplier:

Provided that the public supplier may not unreasonably reject terms and conditions proposed by the Minister:

Provided further that if the Government and the public supplier cannot agree on terms and conditions within one hundred and eighty days of the commencement of negotiations on a rural electrification programme, the Government may conclude an agreement on the same terms and conditions proposed to such public supplier for such programme with another public supplier.

- (2) The Minister may include in a licence such additional provisions governing rural electrification programmes as may be agreed to between the Minister and the public supplier.

Requirements for corporate form and location of headquarters and books and records in Guyana.
No. 29 of 1991

50. (1) Every public supplier licensed to supply electricity pursuant to this Act shall be established and exist as a company under the Companies Act 1991:

Provided that a public supplier that is wholly or majority-owned by the Government shall not be subject to this requirement.

- (2) Every public supplier shall have its headquarters and shall maintain its books and records in Guyana.

PART IV

MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

Liabilities and immunities of suppliers and others.

51. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Act or any regulations made thereunder, a supplier shall, in the exercise of its powers pursuant to this Act or a licence or exemption granted thereunder, cause as little detriment and inconvenience, and do as little damage, as may be possible, and shall make full compensation to any person for direct damage, loss or injury caused by the willful or negligent act or default of the supplier in the exercise of those powers and, in the case of a public supplier, for any direct damage, loss or injury

No. ___ of 1999

suffered by any consumer due to such public supplier's failure to comply with section 25 of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999.

- (2) A supplier shall save harmless all persons by whom any street is repairable, and the officers and servants (if any) of such persons, from all damage and costs in respect of any direct damage, loss or injury referred to in subsection (1).
- (3) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, any regulations made thereunder, or in any written contract to which the supplier is a party, a supplier shall not be liable in any suit, action, indictment, or other proceeding or to any penalty whatsoever in respect of any damage, loss or injury occurring by reason of the vibration or noise of any reciprocating engine, steam turbine or generating unit which is lawfully used by the supplier, unless that damage, loss or injury is due to the wilful or negligent acts or defaults of the supplier or its servants or agents.
- (4) Subject to subsection (3), nothing in this Act shall exonerate a supplier from any indictment, action or other proceeding for nuisance in the event of any nuisance being caused by its negligent act or default.
- (5) Any dispute or difference arising under this section shall be determined by arbitration in accordance with section 64.

Immunity of persons operating water works and sewerage systems.

52. No person with authority over the operation of a water works or a sewerage system shall be liable in any suit, action, or other proceeding whatsoever at the instance of anyone in respect of damage to property or other loss occasioned by failure or deficiency in the operation of such water works or sewerage system by reason of failure or deficiency in the supply of electricity by any supplier.

Penalty for unauthorised supply of electricity.

53. (1) A person who generates, stores, transmits, transforms, distributes, furnishes, sells, resells or otherwise supplies electricity to any other person, premises or area shall be guilty of an offence unless he is authorised to do so by a licence or any exemption granted pursuant to this Act.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine of one million dollars and to imprisonment for a term of six months; and if the offence of which

he is convicted is continued after conviction, he shall be guilty of a further offence and liable to a fine of fifty thousand dollars for every day on which the offence is continued, and the Minister shall take such steps and employ such persons as may be necessary to forcibly or otherwise enter upon, seize, take possession and cease the operations of any works utilised by such person for the unauthorised generation, storage, transmission, transformation, distribution, furnishing, sale, resale or other supply of electricity.

- Penalty for unauthorised electric lines or other apparatus or installations. 54. Except in pursuance of the powers granted to a public supplier by section 20(3), any person who lays down any electric line or apparatus or constructs any electrical installation outside the area or premises in or on which it is authorised to supply electricity by a licence or an exemption granted pursuant to this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine of five hundred thousand dollars; and if the offence of which he is convicted is continued after conviction, he shall be guilty of a further offence and liable to a fine of thirty thousand dollars for every day on which the offence is continued.
- Penalty for obstruction of public suppliers' activities. 55. Except as otherwise provided in this Act or any regulations made thereunder, any person who without due cause obstructs or attempts to obstruct a public supplier in the performance of any of the powers or obligations conferred or imposed upon it by this Act or any regulations made thereunder or a licence shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months.
- Penalty for unauthorised cessation of operations. 56. Any public supplier who ceases its operations or any part thereof in violation of section 11 shall be guilty of an offence and liable upon summary conviction to a fine of ten million dollars.
- Penalty for unauthorised transactions. 57. Any licensee who violates, or any director, treasurer or other officer or agent of a public supplier who makes or votes to authorise a transaction in violation of, section 12 shall be guilty of an offence and upon summary conviction shall be subject to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars.
- Penalty for failing to maintain sustainability programmes and to maintain and submit development and expansion programmes. 58. Any public supplier who fails to maintain the sustainability programmes and to maintain and submit the development and expansion programmes in the manner prescribed under section 38 and its licence shall be guilty of an offence and upon summary conviction shall be subject to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars.

- Penalties for failure to maintain or provide documents, reports and other information. 59. (1) A licensee who fails to maintain or provide the documents and other information required under sections 40 and 41 shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, and if the offence of which it is convicted is continued after conviction, it shall be guilty of a further offence and liable to a fine of twenty thousand dollars for every day on which the offence is continued.
- (2) Any person who fails to file the report required under section 3 (4) with the Minister and the public supplier in whose authorised area such person is supplying electricity to himself shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, and if the offence of which he is convicted is continued after conviction, he shall be guilty of a further offence and liable to a fine of ten thousand dollars for every day on which the offence is continued.
- Penalty for continuing offences. 60. Except as otherwise provided in this Act or any regulations made thereunder, if any offence of which a person is convicted is continued by such person after conviction, he shall be guilty of a further offence and liable to a fine of twenty thousand dollars for every day on which the offence is continued.
- Power to institute proceedings. 61. Except as otherwise provided in this Act or in regulations made thereunder, no proceeding shall be instituted in respect of an offence except by or on behalf of the Minister.
- Payment of penalties. 62. Any fines paid under this Act shall be paid to the Accountant General.
- Recovery of penalties not specified. 63. All penalties imposed by or under this Act or any regulations made thereunder, the recovery of which is not otherwise specially provided for, may be recovered under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.
- Arbitration: general; disputes concerning purchase of undertaking. 64. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, any regulations made thereunder or any licence or exemption granted by the Minister, or any written agreement to which the parties to the dispute are also parties, where any matter is directed, by this Act or by such regulation, licence or exemption or by such written agreement, to be determined by arbitration, that matter shall be determined by an engineer or other fit and competent person as arbitrator, to be appointed in the manner provided in the Arbitration Act, and the reference to arbitration shall be deemed to be a submission within

the meaning of the Arbitration Act which shall apply to such arbitration, except as otherwise expressly provided.

- (2) (a) Unless otherwise provided in a licence or exemption granted under this Act, any difference or dispute arising under section 19 shall, unless the parties to the difference or dispute concur in the appointment of a single arbitrator, be determined by three arbitrators, one of whom shall be appointed by the Government, or by the person designated by the Government under section 19 (1)(b), as the case may be, and another by the public supplier, and those two arbitrators shall appoint the third arbitrator, but in case those two cannot agree upon the appointment of a third arbitrator, that arbitrator shall be appointed by the Chancellor of the Judiciary.
- (b) The reference to arbitration in section 19 shall be deemed to be a submission within the meaning of the Arbitration Act, which, except as expressly varied by paragraph (a), shall apply to such arbitration, except as otherwise expressly provided in a licence or exemption granted under this Act.

Cap. 7:03

Duties of the Minister.

65. In carrying out the provisions of this Act, the Minister shall have the duty to act in a manner best calculated -
- (a) to secure a regular, efficient, coordinated and economical supply of electricity and to ensure that all reasonable demands for electricity are satisfied;
- (b) to protect the interests of consumers of electricity supplied by persons authorised by licences to supply electricity in respect of -
- (i) the prices charged and other terms of supply;
- (ii) the continuity of supply;
- (iii) the quality of the electricity supply services provided; and
- (iv) the provision of electricity in rural areas;
- (c) to ensure that, in relation to the powers regarding licences for the supply of electricity granted to him pursuant to this Act, public suppliers are able to finance the activities that they are authorised

by their licences to carry on, and to obtain the rate of return, if any, provided for in their licences or a written agreement with the Government, or, if no rate of return is provided for in a licence or such written agreement, to obtain a reasonable rate of return on capital invested;

- (d) to promote efficiency and economy on the part of persons authorised by licences to supply electricity, including, but not limited to, promotion of alternative forms of electricity generation using renewable resources wherever commercially feasible;
- (e) to promote the efficient use of electricity by consumers;
- (f) to protect the public from dangers arising from the supply of electricity;
- (g) to take into account the effect on and protection of the physical environment with regard to activities connected with the supply of electricity;
- (h) to enforce the provisions of this Act and any licence or exemption granted pursuant to this Act; and
- (i) to carry out national energy policy.

Maintenance of registry.

66.

- (1) The Minister shall, at such premises and in such form as he may determine, maintain a register of -
 - (a) every licence and every exemption granted to any person;
 - (b) every modification, suspension, or revocation of a licence;
 - (c) every direction or consent given or determination made by the Minister under this Act;
 - (d) every notice or order, and every revocation of such notices and orders, made by the Minister under this Act,

and such register shall be open for inspection by any person during normal working hours.

- (2) In making an entry in the register as provided for in subsection (1), the Minister shall have regard to the need for excluding, so far as

that is practicable, any matter which relates to the affairs of any person, where publication of that matter would or might, in the opinion of the Minister, seriously and prejudicially affect the interests of that person, including the interest in maintaining the confidentiality of trade secrets and information that might aid a competitor, of a public supplier.

Notices.

67. (1) Except as otherwise provided in a licence granted under this Act, any notice or other document required or authorised by virtue of this Act to be served on any person may be served -
- (a) by delivering it to him or by leaving it at his proper address or by sending it by post to him at that address; or
 - (b) if the person is a body corporate, by serving it in accordance with paragraph (a) on the corporate secretary of that body; or
 - (c) if the person is a partnership, by serving it in accordance with paragraph (a) on a partner or a person having the control or management of the partnership business.

Cap. 2:01

- (2) For the purposes of this section and section 9 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act in its application to this section and unless otherwise provided in a licence or exemption under this Act, the proper address of any person on whom a notice or other document is to be served shall be his last known address, except that -
- (a) in the case of service on a body corporate or its secretary, it shall be the address of the registered or principal office of the body;
 - (b) in the case of service on a partnership or a partner or a person having the control or management of a partnership business, it shall be the address of the principal office of the partnership,

and for the purpose of this subsection the principal office of a company registered outside Guyana or of a partnership carrying on business outside Guyana is its principal office within Guyana.

- Cap. 2:01
- (3) If a person to be served by virtue of this Act with any notice or other document by another has specified to that other an address within Guyana other than his proper address (as determined pursuant to subsection (2)) as the one at which he or someone on his behalf will accept such documents, that address shall also be treated as his proper address for the purposes of this section and section 9 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act.
- (4) If the name or address of any owner or occupier of premises on whom a notice or other document is to be served cannot, after reasonable inquiry, be ascertained, such document may be served by -
- (a) addressing it to him by the description of "owner" or "occupier" of the premises, which premises shall be specified or described in the address; and
- (b) either leaving it in the hands of a person who is or appears to be resident or employed on the premises or leaving it conspicuously affixed to a building on the premises.
- (5) This provision shall not apply to any notice or document, the service of which is provided for by rules of court.
- Savings. 68. (1) Notwithstanding the repeal of any Act by section 42 and except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of section 31, the Third Schedule, or a licence granted under section 4 or an exemption granted under section 3, the following subsidiary legislation made thereunder shall continue in force as if they were regulations made under section 69 of this Act to the extent that their continuance is necessary for the administration of this Act, in particular for public suppliers to conduct authorised activities under section 3 or 4 or otherwise to fulfill their obligations under this Act, until amended or revoked under the aforesaid section 69 -
- Third Schedule
- Cap. 56:01
- (a) the Electricity Regulations made under section 36 of the Electricity Act;
- (b) the Electricity Order made under the Georgetown Electric Supply Ordinance, Cap. 238, 1953 Ed.) (now repealed) on 27th May, 1927 (see 1953 Ed. Vol ____, p. 2395) and continued in force by section 37 of the Electricity Act; and
- Cap. 56:01

Cap. 56:02

(c) the Electric Installation Regulations made under section 7 of the Electric Lighting Act.

(2) Subject to the first proviso to section 5, within the ninety days following the issuance of shares provided for in section 42 (6), the Minister shall commence the preparation of new regulations to replace the regulations set forth in subsection (1), and, thereby, to bring the technical, engineering, inspection and other standards applicable to public suppliers in line with section 31:

Provided that, in the course of the preparation of such regulations and prior to their making, the Minister shall consult with and give due consideration to the views of any public supplier that may be affected by such regulations.

Authority to make regulations.

69. The Minister may make regulations for giving effect to this Act with regard to -

- (a) the promotion of efficiency and economy on the part of persons authorised by licences or exemptions to supply electricity;
- (b) the use of alternative forms of electricity generation using renewable resources wherever commercially feasible;
- (c) the promotion of the efficient use of electricity by consumers,
- (d) the protection of the public and property from dangers arising from the supply of electricity, including -
 - (i) the safety of the public from personal injury or from fire or otherwise;
 - (ii) the protection of persons and property by reason of contact with or the proximity of, or by reason of the defective or dangerous condition of, any appliance, apparatus or installation used in the supply of electricity;
 - (iii) the reporting and investigation of electricity-related accidents and damage, and failures to supply electricity;
 - (iv) the methods of wiring of premises;

- (v) the types of electrical apparatus and installations that may be used;
 - (vi) the qualifications, examination, licensing and registration to be required of electricians and electrical engineers, technicians and inspectors;
 - (vii) the inspection, testing and maintenance of works, supply lines, meters, accumulators, fittings, installations, supply lines, and apparatus constructed and placed on any public land or private premises;
 - (viii) the prevention of any telephone, other telecommunications or electric signaling line, or the current in such line, from being injuriously affected by any appliance, apparatus or installation used in the supply of electricity;
 - (ix) the units or standards for the measurement of electricity and the limits of error; and
 - (x) the frequency, type of current and voltage of electricity to be generated or supplied.
- (e) in addition to the information required under sections 40 and 41, the information that a licensee, or persons exempt from the licencing requirements of this Act, must provide to the Minister or to consumers;
 - (f) the engineering, operational and other technical standards applicable to public suppliers;
 - (g) the creation, maintenance and disposition of any funding provided by the Government for the supply of electricity to low income or disabled persons;
 - (h) the effect on and protection of the physical environment with regard to activities connected with the supply of electricity;
 - (i) the supply of electricity for private purposes;
 - (j) any matter concerning application for and the granting, modification, extension, revocation, and suspension of licences for

the supply of electricity and concerning exemptions from the requirement to obtain a licence for the supply of electricity;

- (k) the keeping, by persons authorised by a licence or by exemption to supply electricity, of maps, plans and other drawings, diagrams and schematics and their production for inspection or copying;
- (l) the mitigation of any natural disaster or other civil emergency that disrupts or is likely to disrupt the supply of electricity;
- (m) subject to the provisions of this Act, the reform of the electricity sector;
- (n) the penalties for contravention of any regulation made under this section; and
- (o) any other matter necessary to establish and carry out national policy on matters involving electricity or for the administration of this Act.

Amendment of
Schedules.

70. The Minister may by regulations, which shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the National Assembly, amend any of the Schedules.

Repeal.
No. 30 of 1997

71. The Electricity Sector Reform Act 1997 is hereby repealed.

FIRST SCHEDULE

s. 27(2)

**Rates for the Supply of Electricity
and Services and Rate Adjustment Mechanism**

Guyana Power & Light, Inc.

Part A

Preliminary

- No. ___ of 1999
1. This Schedule, in conjunction with and subject to the Licence, shall govern the rates for the supply of electricity and for services at any time charged and to be charged by Guyana Power & Light, Inc., and the mechanisms, formulae, principles and procedures whereby such rates shall be calculated and determined for all purposes under this Act and the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999.
- No. ___ of 1999
2. (1) In this Schedule -
- (a) “basic rates” means electricity rates and service rates;
 - (b) “certificate of compliance” means a document issued by the independent firm of accountants appointed in accordance with paragraph 11;
 - (c) “certificate of noncompliance” means a document issued by the independent firm of accountants appointed in accordance with paragraph 11;
 - (d) “Commission” means the Public Utilities Commission established by section 5 of the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999;
 - (e) “Company” means Guyana Power & Light, Inc., a public company limited by shares incorporated under the Companies Act 1991;
 - (f) “electricity rates” means the rates for the supply of electricity, as prescribed by or calculated in accordance with this Schedule and the Licence, excluding any fuel or foreign exchange surcharge or rebate;
- No. 29 of 1991

- (g) “final deficit return” means the excess of allowable return over the final return as determined in accordance with the formula prescribed in the Licence;
- (h) “final excess return” means the excess of the final return over allowable return as determined in accordance with the formula prescribed in the Licence;
- (i) “final return” means the final return determined in accordance with the Licence;
- (j) “final return certificate” means the document prepared in accordance with the Licence and submitted to the Commission in accordance with paragraph 7;
- (k) “independent firm of accountants” and “independent accountants” means the initial independent firm of accountants and any subsequent independent firm of accountants appointed by the Commission and the Company in accordance with paragraph 11;
- (l) “interim deficit return” means the excess of allowable return over the interim return as determined in accordance with the formula prescribed in the Licence;
- (m) “interim excess return” means the excess of interim return over allowable return as determined in accordance with the formula prescribed in the Licence;
- (n) “interim return” means the interim return determined in accordance with the Licence;
- (o) “interim return certificate” means the document prepared in accordance with the Licence and submitted to the Commission in accordance with paragraph 5(1);
- (p) “Licence” means the licence granted by the Minister to the Company under sections 4 and 42 (3) (c) of the Act;
- (r) “rates” means any tariff charged by the Company for the supply of electricity or services;

- (s) “service rates” means the rates charged for services provided by the Company; and
 - (t) “services” means any services (other than the supply of electricity) provided by the Company, including the connection, disconnection, and reconnection of electricity services, meter investigations, and the like.
- (2) For any other term used in this Schedule and not defined herein but which is defined in section 2 of the Act, the definition in section 2 of the Act shall apply.
 - (3) For any other term used in this Schedule or the Licence and not defined herein but which is defined in the Licence, the definition in the Licence shall apply, and in case of any conflict between a definition in this Schedule and a definition in the Licence, the definition in the Licence shall prevail.
 - (4) Subject to subsection (3), in case of any conflict between the definition of any term in this Schedule and the definition of such term in the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999, the definition in this Schedule shall apply.

Part B

Rates for the Company's Supply of Electricity and Services

Second Schedule

- 3. (1) Subject to the Act, with effect from the appointed day, the Company shall charge for electricity and services supplied in accordance with the rates prescribed in the Second Schedule, and such Second Schedule shall remain in effect until amended in accordance with this Schedule and the Licence.
- (2) The Company shall submit to the Minister and to the Commission, with respect to its financial year ended on the thirty-first day of December, 2000, the documents specified in paragraph 5 (1) on or before the twenty-eighth day of January, 2001, and the documents specified in paragraph 7(1) on or before the thirtieth day of April, 2001, and the requirements of paragraphs 5 and 7 shall apply to such documents.

4. The Company's allowable rate of return shall be calculated in accordance with the Licence.
5. (1) Commencing with the end of the 2000 financial year, within twenty-eight days after the end of each of its financial years, the Company shall submit to the Commission an interim return certificate in the form prescribed in the Licence -
 - (a) containing the relevant information in relation to the operations of the Company during the particular year; and
 - (b) certifying that the interim return for that year was calculated in accordance with the Licence,together with the Company's unaudited internal management accounts for the financial year with respect to which the interim return is made.
- (2) Where the interim return certificate is not submitted to the Commission within the time specified in subparagraph (1), or if the Company, before the interim return certificate is submitted, demands payment for electricity or services supplied for any purpose in the current financial year, the Company shall charge for electricity and services at the basic rates in force at the end of the financial year immediately preceding the current financial year.
- (3) Where the interim return for any financial year exceeds that permitted under the allowable rate of return calculated in accordance with the Licence, then in respect of that financial year, the Commission shall, in respect of the month in which the relevant interim return certificate is submitted and in respect of subsequent months, subject to paragraph 7, require the Company to decrease the basic rates charged by the Company, as prescribed in the Second Schedule for 1 January, 2001, and, in all subsequent years, as prescribed by the rates previously determined pursuant to paragraphs 9 and 10; and any such decrease shall be independent of any fuel cost or foreign exchange adjustment that may be provided for in the Licence.
- (4) Where the interim return for any financial year is less than the allowable rate of return calculated in accordance with the Licence, then with respect to that financial year the Commission shall, in respect of the month in which the relevant interim return certificate

Second Schedule

Second Schedule

is submitted and in respect of subsequent months, subject to paragraph 7, permit the Company to increase the basic rates chargeable, as prescribed in the Second Schedule for 1 January, 2001, and, in all subsequent years, as prescribed by the rates previously determined pursuant to paragraphs 9 and 10; and any such increase shall be independent of any fuel cost or foreign exchange adjustment that may be provided for in the Licence.

- (5) The decrease and increase in basic rates referred to in subparagraphs (3) and (4), respectively, must be effected in accordance with the formulae prescribed in the Licence.
- (6) Subject to paragraphs 9 and 10 and to the terms of the Licence, any decrease in rates under subparagraph (3) or increase under subparagraph (4) shall become effective in relation to any bill issued after the relevant interim return certificate is submitted to the Commission and in respect of subsequent months.

6. Where -

- (a) the Company, before the interim return certificate is submitted to the Commission, demands payment for the supply of electricity or services for any purpose in the current financial year; and
- (b) the Company charges for the supply of electricity or services at the basic rates in force at the end of the financial year immediately preceding the financial year,

then any decrease under paragraph 5 (3) or increase under paragraph 5 (4) is effective from the beginning of the then-current financial year; but any such decrease or increase must be distributed and allocated equally on a monthly basis over the remaining months in the current financial year:

Provided that the Company submitted its interim return certificate to the Commission within the time limitations provided in paragraph 5 (1).

- 7. (1) The Company shall, not later than the thirtieth day of April of each financial year, submit to the Commission the following -
 - (a) a full set of audited accounts for the prior financial year comprising an income statement, balance sheet and a statement of change in financial position, plus

accompanying notes and other statements duly approved by the Company's directors and reported on by the Company's auditors;

- (b) any other documents required to be submitted in accordance with the terms of the Licence;
- (c) a final return certificate in the same form as that prescribed for the interim return certificate in the Licence, which must be compiled with reference to the Company's audited accounts; and
- (d) a certificate of compliance or a certificate of non-compliance issued by an independent firm of accounts appointed pursuant to paragraph 11.

- (2) A certificate of compliance or a certificate of non-compliance issued by the independent firm of accountants referred to in subparagraph (1) (d) must state whether or not the independent accountants are able to certify that the final return certificate is in compliance with the prescriptions of the Licence, and, if not, the reasons therefor.

8. Where a certificate of non-compliance is delivered to the Company, the Company shall have a period of fourteen days after submission of such certificate to the Commission under paragraph 7 (1) to resolve the matter with the independent accountant. If the Company and the independent accountant are unable to resolve the matter within such fourteen day period, the Company and the independent accountant must each, within a further period of seven days, complete and deliver to the Commission separate reports setting out the reasons for the issuance of the certificate of non-compliance. If the independent accountant and the Company are able to resolve the matter within the fourteen day period, the Company shall, within a further period of seven days, resubmit to the Commission the items required in paragraph 7 (1), along with the certificate of compliance.

- 9. (1) Subject to subparagraph (2) and in accordance with the principles, formulae and accounting mechanisms set forth in the Licence, the Commission, upon receipt of the documentation set forth in paragraph 7 (1) (a), (b) and (c), a certificate of compliance or a certificate of non-compliance and, if applicable, the reports referred to in paragraph 8, shall review the documentation

submitted, the certificate and the reports, if any, and make a final determination, within thirty days of such receipt, as to the relevant adjustments to the basic rates, which rates must be implemented by the Company within twenty-one days of the receipt of the determination of the Commission:

Provided that, in the case of a certificate of compliance, the relevant adjustments to the basic rates shall be deemed effective upon the fourteenth day after receipt by the Commission without the need for any determination by the Commission.

- (2) The basic rates established on the basis of the interim return certificate shall remain in effect pending the determination by the Commission, if necessary, pursuant to subparagraph (1).
10.
 - (1) Independent of any fuel cost or foreign exchange adjustment that may be provided for in the Licence, the Company shall adjust the basic rates in accordance with paragraph 9 (1) and the mechanism described in the Licence, to reflect any differences between the interim return certificate and the final return certificate; but in the absence of any requirement for any such adjustment, the basic rates chargeable by the Company pursuant to the interim return certificate shall remain in effect.
 - (2) Where any adjustments to the basic rates are required in accordance with subparagraph (1) and subject to the terms of the Licence, such adjustments become effective in relation to any bill issued by the Company after the end of the twenty-one day period provided for in paragraph 9 (1). If permitted by the Licence, such adjustments shall take into account the final deficit return or final excess return, if any, for the previous year, calculated in accordance with the final return certificate; and any adjustment to the basic rates previously determined under paragraph 5(3) or 5(4) must be distributed and allocated equally on a monthly basis over the remaining months in the then current financial year.
11.
 - (1) For the purposes of this Schedule and subject to subparagraph (2), the Commission shall, after an opportunity for the Company and any other interested party to be heard, appoint an independent firm of accountants, which may be the Company's independent firm of accountants or another independent firm of accountants, for the purposes of paragraphs 7 and 8.

- (2) The initial independent firm of accountants to be appointed under subparagraph (1) shall be the firm of independent accountants selected by the Government and the Strategic Investor pursuant to a Shareholders' Agreement between the Government, the Strategic Investor and the Company. Upon resignation or termination of the appointment of the initial firm of independent accountants, the replacement shall be acceptable to the Company and shall be appointed by the Commission. Both the initial independent firm of accountants and any replacement appointee shall be registered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Guyana. The preparation of the certificate required under paragraph 7(1)(d) and any report required under paragraph 8 shall be done under an agreement between the Company and the independent firm of accountants.
- (3) Subject to the Company's compliance with subparagraph (5), the independent firm of accountants appointed under subparagraph (1) must, by the thirtieth day of April in each year, issue to the Company a certificate of compliance or a certificate of non-compliance, as the case may be, as required under paragraph 7(1)(d), and if required under paragraph 8, a report relating to the reasons for the issuance of any certificate of non-compliance.
- (4) If, by the thirtieth day of April in any year, the independent firm of accountants appointed under subparagraph (1) has not issued to the Company the certificate of compliance or the certificate of non-compliance, as the case may be, required by paragraph 7(1)(d) or has not submitted the report if required under paragraph 8 within the prescribed time, the Commission shall accept the final return certificate submitted by the Company in accordance with paragraph 7(1) in lieu of a certificate prepared by the independent firm of accountants and, on the basis of such final return certificate, shall require the Company to make any adjustment required thereby to the rates permitted to be charged by the Company, and the failure by the independent firm of accountants appointed under subsection (1) to issue a certificate or a report shall not be grounds for delay in the Commission's annual review and adjustment of the rates permitted to be charged by the Company in accordance with this Schedule.
- (5) The Company shall provide, to the independent firm of accountants appointed under subparagraph (1), such access to its books, accounts and records as shall be necessary for such independent

firm of accountants to prepare the certificate required by paragraph 7(1)(d) and any report required to be prepared under paragraph 8

12. Subject to the approval of the Commission --

- (a) the Company may elect to increase basic rates in any financial year at a rate less than that rate of increase which may otherwise be permitted by this Schedule and the Licence;
- (b) the Company may elect to decrease basic rates in any financial year at a rate greater than that rate of decrease which may otherwise be required by this Schedule and the Licence;
- (c) where the Company elects to increase basic rates in any financial year at a rate less than that otherwise permitted, or decreases such basic rates by an amount greater than required, the amount of such revenue foregone may be added to the rate calculation for one or more of the following years only as a notional expense as provided in the Licence;
- (d) the amount of such revenue foregone shall be calculated in accordance with the Licence.

SECOND SCHEDULE

s. 27 (1)

Electricity and Service Rates Notice

Guyana Electricity Corporation and Guyana Power & Light, Inc.

1. This Schedule shall govern the rates for the supply of electricity and for services at any time charged and to be charged —
 - (a) by the Guyana Electricity Corporation from the first day of January, 1996, until the appointed day in relation to section 27 of the Act and the First Schedule and this Schedule to the Act; and
 - (b) by Guyana Power & Light, Inc. from such appointed day through the first day of January, 2001.

2. (1) In this Schedule -
 - (a) “actual rates” means the rates actually charged and chargeable by the Corporation or the Company to consumers for the supply of electricity for the period 1 January, 1999, to 31 December, 2000, inclusive, in accordance with this Schedule;
 - (b) “appointed day” means the day on which section 27 of the Act and the First Schedule and this Schedule to the Act come into force in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Act;
 - (c) “basic rates” means electricity rates and service rates;
 - (d) “Corporation” means the Guyana Electricity Corporation, a corporation established under the authority of the Electricity Act, Cap. 56:01;
 - (e) “Company” means Guyana Power & Light, Inc., a public company limited by shares incorporated under the Companies Act 1991;

- (f) “electricity rates” means the rates chargeable by the Company for the supply of electricity as of 1 January, 2001, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 12, 13 and 14;
- (g) “headline rates” means the rates charged and chargeable by the Company for the supply of electricity from the appointed day to 31 December, 2000, inclusive, in accordance with the Quadripartite Agreement, the Licence, and this Schedule;
- (h) “independent firm of accountants” has the same meaning as in paragraph 2 (1) of the First Schedule to the Act;
- (i) “Licence” means the licence granted by the Minister to the Company under sections 4 and 42 (3) (c) of the Act;
- (j) “Quadripartite Agreement” means the agreement dated the fourth day of December, 1998, between and among the Guyana Trade Unions Congress, the Guyana Consumers Association, the Private Sector Commission, and the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana;
- (k) “rates” means any tariff charged by the Corporation or the Company for the supply of electricity or services, and includes, as appropriate in the context, headline rates, actual rates or basic rates;
- (l) “service rates” means the rates charged for services provided by the Corporation or the Company; and
- (m) “services” means any services (other than the supply of electricity) provided by the Corporation or the Company, including the connection, disconnection, and reconnection of electricity service, meter investigations and the like.

- (2) For any other term used in this Schedule and not defined herein but which is defined in section 2 of the Act, the definition in section 2 of the Act shall apply.
- (3) For any other term used in this Schedule or the Licence and not defined herein but which is defined in the Licence, the definition in the Licence shall apply, and in case of any conflict between a definition in this Schedule and a definition in the Licence, the definition in the Licence shall prevail.
- (4) Subject to subparagraph (3), in case of any conflict between the definition of any term in this Schedule and the definition of such term in the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999, the definition in this Schedule shall apply.

**Rates Charged and Chargeable by
the Guyana Electricity Corporation
Prior to the Appointed Day**

3. Notwithstanding anything in the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999 or any other law, the rates charged and chargeable by the Corporation from 1 January, 1996, until the appointed day its tariff notices shall be deemed valid without any need for any filing with or determination or confirmation by the Commission under that Act.
4. As provided in the Quadripartite Agreement, with effect from 1 January, 1999, until the appointed day, the actual rates charged and chargeable by the Corporation shall be in accordance with Annex I.

**Rates Charged and Chargeable by
Guyana Power & Light, Inc.
From the Appointed Day to 31 December 31, 1999, Inclusive**

5. As provided in the Quadripartite Agreement, the headline rates and actual rates charged and chargeable by the Company for the supply of electricity from the appointed day to 31 December, 1999, inclusive, shall be as set forth on Annex I.
6. The service rates charged and chargeable by the Company for services from the appointed day to 31 December, 1999, inclusive,

shall be as set forth in Annex I and the Standard Terms and Conditions of the Company attached as a schedule to the Licence.

7. Fuel and foreign exchange surcharges for the supply of electricity by the Company during calendar year 1999 shall be calculated and applied in accordance with the First Schedule to the Licence.

**Rates Charged and Chargeable by
Guyana Power & Light, Inc.
For Calendar Year 2000**

8. As provided in the Quadripartite Agreement, headline rates for the supply of electricity by the Company in the calendar year 2000 shall be determined and charged in accordance with the First Schedule to the Licence.
9. As provided in the Quadripartite Agreement, actual rates for the supply of electricity by the Company in the calendar year 2000 shall be determined and charged as set forth in Annex I.
10. Service rates for the calendar year 2000 shall be determined in accordance with the First Schedule to the Licence and the Standard Terms and Conditions of the Company attached as a schedule to the Licence.
11. Fuel and foreign exchange surcharges and rebates for the supply of electricity by the Company during the calendar year 2000 shall be calculated and applied in accordance with the First Schedule to the Licence.

**Rates Chargeable by Guyana Power & Light, Inc.
As of 1 January, 2001**

12. Subject to paragraph 13, on 1 January, 2001, actual rates and headline rates in effect as of 31 December, 2000 shall be replaced by the electricity rates by grossing up the actual rates in effect on 31 December, 2000, for all categories of consumers set forth on Annex I, to the extent required, when applied to the Company's sales of electricity during the calendar year 2000, to collectively generate a total revenue equal to the Company's projected total revenues from both actual rates and the subsidies payable under paragraph 15, excluding any revenues associated with fuel price or foreign exchange surcharges or rebates.

13. The Company's calculation of the electricity rates under paragraph 12 shall, prior to 1 January, 2001, be verified to the Company by the independent firm of accountants on the basis of the Company's unaudited internal management accounts projected to the end of the calendar year 2000 (including estimated figures for sales of electricity during December 2000); and when so verified, such electricity rates shall become effective and chargeable as provided in paragraph 12.
14. The electricity rates determined as of 1 January, 2001, in accordance with paragraphs 12 and 13, and the service rates in effect as of 31 December, 2000 in accordance with paragraph 10 (collectively the basic rates) shall remain in effect until adjusted in the calendar year 2001 in accordance with the First Schedule to the Act and the First Schedule to the Licence.

Additional Provisions

15. The difference between headline rates and actual rates for the supply of electricity shall be applied to the Company's sales of electricity from the appointed day to 31 December, 2000, inclusive, and shall be billed and paid as a subsidy in accordance with the terms of a Shareholders' Agreement between and among the Government, the Strategic Investor and the Company; and in the event that any such subsidy is not paid as provided in such Shareholders' Agreement, actual rates charged and chargeable by the Company to consumers shall, in whole or in part at the discretion of the Company, revert to the relevant headline rates, and, subject to paragraph 16, such headline rates shall be the actual rates payable by consumers.
16. If, as provided in paragraph 15, the Company increases the actual rates so as to reduce, in whole or in part, the subsidy otherwise required, and to the extent that, pursuant to a Share Subscription Agreement and a Shareholders' Agreement between the Strategic Investor, the Government and the Company, payment is subsequently made to the Company in respect of that reduction in the subsidy, then the Company shall rebate the amount of such payment to consumers, without interest.
17. To the extent that, prior to the appointed day, the Corporation has not implemented any actual rate or billed any consumer therefor as provided for in the Quadripartite Agreement and this Schedule, the

Company may, on or after the appointed day, implement and bill the same, and such actual rates shall be payable by consumers.

18. Notwithstanding anything in the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999 or any other law, the rates charged and chargeable by the Company and payable by consumers in accordance with this Schedule, including those provided for in paragraphs 12, 13 and 14, shall be deemed valid without any need for any filing with or determination or confirmation by the Commission.

THIRD SCHEDULE

**s. 2, 23 (e), 26 (4), 29 (1) and (2),
30, 68 (1)**

Public Electricity Supply Regulations

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Electricity Supply Regulations and shall come into operation on such day as the Minister may by order appoint in accordance with section 1(2).
2. (1) In these Regulations -
 - (a) "appropriate meter" means an electricity meter of a pattern and construction which, having regard to the characteristics of the supply of electricity and of the charges therefor, are particularly suitable for such supply and which is installed and connected with the service lines in accordance with the standards approved by the Government Electric Inspector, and every reference to a "meter" in this Schedule includes an "appropriate meter";
 - (b) "consumer" means any owner or occupier of premises to which a public supplier supplies, or has been requested to supply, electricity, or whose premises are connected, directly or indirectly, with any electric line or other electrical apparatus of a public supplier through which electricity is, or is capable of being, supplied;
 - (c) "installation", in relation to a consumer, means every electrical appliance, wire, circuit, wall socket, equipment, machine, motor and other apparatus on the premises to which a public supplier supplies electricity and which is not the property of the public supplier.
- (2) For any other term used in this Schedule which is defined in section 2, the definition in section 2 shall apply.
3. A public supplier shall maintain, and shall make available free of charge, the forms necessary for a consumer to apply for a supply of electricity in accordance with sections 22 and 23.
4. (1) Prior to supplying electricity to any consumer requiring a supply of electricity pursuant to section 22, a public supplier may require

such consumer to provide, in a form satisfactory to the public supplier -

- (a) in any case in which the supply of electricity is requested for a building or erection and, in order to supply electricity, the public supplier would be required to place electric wires or other electrical apparatus over, on or under land not owned by the owner or occupier of such building or other erection, documentation as to the identity of the person holding legal title to such land (other than a governmental authority) and permission from such legal title holder for the placement of the electric wires or other electrical apparatus over, on or under such land;
 - (b) in any case in which a consumer requires a supply of electricity as the owner of premises, documentation that such consumer holds legal title to the premises;
 - (c) in any case in which a consumer requires a supply of electricity as the occupier of premises, documentation that such consumer is authorised to occupy the premises by -
 - (i) the Central Housing and Planning Authority; or
 - (ii) the legal title holder of such premises.
- (2) It shall be the duty of any person, from whom a consumer requests documents in order to provide them to a public supplier under subparagraph (1), promptly to provide the documents to the consumer or the public supplier.
- (3) In addition to any documentation required by a public supplier under subparagraph (1), a consumer applying for a supply of electricity shall obtain any other necessary permissions and licences for the public supplier's entry upon the premises, and for the erection, attachment or installation of such electricity meters, electric lines and other electrical apparatus as may be required by the public supplier for the safe supply of electricity to the premises.

A public supplier shall not be required to connect a supply of electricity before -

- (a) the consumer requiring the supply has accepted the notice given by the public supplier in accordance with section 23 and has provided any documentation requested by the public supplier under paragraph 4;
 - (b) the premises and installation to which it is to be connected have been approved by the public supplier and the Government Electric Inspector; and
 - (c) the consumer has paid the security and any customer contribution payable in respect thereof in accordance with the public supplier's Standard Terms and Conditions and has complied with any other applicable provisions of the Act and these Regulations.
6. No person shall be entitled to assign the benefit of his supply contract, or his right to a supply of electricity under section 23 of the Act, nor shall he sell or supply or cause to be sold or supplied to any other person or premises any electricity supplied, without first obtaining the written approval of the public supplier.
7.
 - (1) Subject to subparagraphs (2) and (3) and paragraph 8, a public supplier may recover from a consumer any charges due to it in respect of the supply of electricity, or in respect of the provision of any electricity meter, electric line or other electrical apparatus.
 - (2) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as preventing a public supplier from billing a consumer retroactively for electricity consumption for a maximum period of six months prior to the issuance of such a bill, upon the presentation of reasonable evidence that the consumer was not previously billed for such consumption, and the rates reflected in such a bill should be those in effect at the time the consumption of electricity occurred.
 - (3) Notwithstanding anything in paragraph 8 -
 - (a) whenever a transformer is installed by a public supplier for the purpose of supplying electricity to a single consumer, the public supplier shall be entitled to require such consumer to pay all or a part of the cost of the transformer and its installation;
 - (b) whenever a consumer's installation is connected to a public supplier's transformer through which three or fewer other

consumers are supplied with electricity and those consumers, or any of them, paid all or a part of the cost of the transformer and its installation, the public supplier shall be entitled to require such consumer to bear a pro rata portion of the cost of the transformer and its installation, and if the public supplier so assesses such consumer, the public supplier shall allocate the consumer's payment of the assessment pro rata to such other consumers, or any of them;

- (c) notwithstanding the payment of any assessment made under subparagraphs (a) and (b), the transformer shall remain the property of the public supplier.
- (4) No fee shall be payable by a consumer for the installation of a meter where the supply of electricity is to be provided for a period exceeding six months, but, in any other case, a public supplier may make a charge for such installation.
8. If requested by a consumer for premises sixty feet or less from an existing electrical line of a public supplier, such public supplier shall supply electricity to the point of entry of the premises -
- (a) within twenty-one days after the consumer has complied with paragraph 5; and
 - (b) without charge for installing the electric lines or other electrical apparatus necessary to provide the supply to the point of entry of the premises.
9. If requested by a consumer for premises more than sixty feet but less than one mile from an existing electrical line of a public supplier, such public supplier shall supply electricity to the point of entry of such premises -
- (a) within six months after the consumer has complied with paragraph 5; and
 - (b) the public supplier may require the consumer to bear the cost of installing the electrical lines or any other electrical apparatus necessary to provide such supply beyond sixty feet from the existing electrical line.
10. Without prejudice to a public supplier's rights under these Regulations to

collect from a consumer any charges due -

- (a) a supply contract may be terminated at any time by the consumer to whom the public supplier supplies electricity by such consumer giving to the public supplier not less than seven days notice in writing;
 - (b) every consumer shall give notice that he intends to quit the premises to which electricity is being supplied by a public supplier at least twenty-one days prior to the date on which the consumer actually quits such premises, and such notice shall state the date on which the consumer requests that the supply of electricity be terminated.
11. (1) Any electricity meter, electric line or other electrical apparatus installed by a public supplier in order to provide a supply of electricity pursuant to this Act shall remain the property of the public supplier, notwithstanding that they may be fixed or fastened to any part of the premises on or in which they may be situated.
- (2) A public supplier may use any electric line or other electrical apparatus connected to premises to which electricity is supplied for the purpose of supplying electricity to another premises.
- (3) No electricity meter, electric line or other electrical apparatus which is the property of a public supplier shall be subject to distress or be liable to be taken in execution under process of any court or any proceedings in bankruptcy against the person (other than the public supplier who owns them) on whose premises they may be.
12. (1) Every consumer shall be responsible for maintaining his installation in a safe condition to the satisfaction of the public supplier and the Government Electric Inspector.
- (2) Neither the connection of the supply of electricity to, nor the approval, inspection or testing of, a consumer's installation or apparatus, or any part thereof, shall imply any warranty that the installation or apparatus, or part thereof, is safe or suitable for any purpose, and neither a Government Electric Inspector, the Government, nor a public supplier shall be liable for any injury, loss or damage resulting directly or indirectly from any defect or inadequacy in a consumer's installation or apparatus.

- (3) Where the supply contract between a consumer and a public supplier requires the public supplier to supply the consumer with a maximum power of any specified amount, the consumer shall not be entitled to alter that maximum except upon giving one month's prior notice in writing to the public supplier, as may be required by the public supplier's Standard Terms and Conditions, and if such alteration is approved by the public supplier, the terms and conditions of the consumer's supply may be varied as may be appropriate, with the consumer to bear any expense reasonably incurred by the public supplier in respect of the electric lines or other apparatus by which electricity is supplied to the consumer's premises consequent on the approved alteration.
- (4) A public supplier may install protective apparatus on a consumer's premises for the purpose of disconnecting the supply of electricity in the event that the consumer's installation is being, or may be, used in a manner likely to cause a demand for electricity that exceeds the public supplier's installed capacity for the area in which the premises are situated.
- (5) If any apparatus that is a part of a public supplier's system is damaged or fails to operate due to a defect in a consumer's installation, the public supplier may make, or may require the consumer to make, such alteration or repair to the consumer's installation as is necessary to prevent against further damage or to overcome the failure, and the consumer shall reimburse the public supplier for the cost of such alteration or repair and of any such damage to the public supplier's system.
- (6) A public supplier may, intentionally and temporarily, reduce the quantity of electricity supplied to any consumer if, due to an unforeseen circumstance beyond the public supplier's control, it reasonably appears to the public supplier that the supply of electricity generated is or will be insufficient to enable the public supplier to carry out its obligations to supply electricity under this Act or the terms of its licence.
- (7) A public supplier, at its own discretion, may temporarily discontinue or disconnect the supply of electricity to a consumer's premises for the purpose of testing or effecting repairs or alterations to the public supplier's system, or to its or the consumer's installation on the premises, or in the event of an

occurrence affecting or likely to affect the proper working of such system or installation.

- (8) Except as otherwise provided in the Act, these Regulations, or a licence, a public supplier shall not be entitled to prescribe any special form of installation to be used by a consumer, or to control or interfere with the manner in which electricity supplied to a consumer is used.

Provided that no consumer may use any installation, or the electricity supplied to him, in any manner so as to damage the property of a public supplier or to interfere with the supply of electricity to any other consumer, or in contravention of the Act, any regulations made thereunder, or a licence granted under the Act.

13. (1) Any Government Electric Inspector and any official authorised by a public supplier may at all reasonable times, on the production of some duly authenticated document showing his authority, enter any premises to which electricity will be, is being, or has been, supplied by the public supplier for the purposes of -

- (a) installing, inspecting, repairing, altering or removing any electricity meter, electric line, or other electrical apparatus on the premises;
- (b) ascertaining the quantity of electricity supplied;
- (c) connecting or disconnecting the supply of electricity;
- (d) carrying out any other purpose of the Act or these Regulations,

and every consumer shall ensure that such persons are permitted to enter the premises at all reasonable times for those purposes.

- (2) Any official exercising the powers of entry conferred by this paragraph may be accompanied by such persons as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose for which the entry is made.

14. (1) Unless some other method of measuring the amount of electricity supplied to a consumer's premises shall have been agreed in writing between a consumer and a public supplier, the public

supplier shall give the supply through, and measure the supply given by means of, an appropriate meter installed by the public supplier, and if the consumer refuses or fails to take his supply through an appropriate meter, the public supplier may refuse to give or may discontinue the supply of electricity.

- (2) Unless otherwise agreed to by the public supplier, all electricity supplied to a consumer's premises at any one tariff rate shall be supplied through one, and only one, meter.
- (3) The point of supply of electricity and the location of any meter shall be installed on a consumer's premises in a position determined by the public supplier, in accordance with guidelines approved by the Government Electric Inspector.
- (4) In addition to any meter which may be placed upon a consumer's premises to ascertain the amount of electricity supplied, a public supplier may place upon such premises any meter or other apparatus necessary to ascertain or regulate either the amount of electricity supplied or the number of hours during which such supply is given or the maximum power taken by the consumer or any other quantity or time connected therewith.
- (5) If a consumer requests that the supply of electricity to his premises should be by a method other than that which the public supplier would ordinarily adopt, the public supplier may, in its discretion, agree to the consumer's request, and the consumer shall pay to the public supplier all costs and expenses incurred in providing the supply which are in excess of the estimated cost to the public supplier of providing the supply by the means it would ordinarily adopt.
- (6) A public supplier may remove any meter that has been tampered with or that has been damaged, by a consumer or otherwise, or any meter that is registering inaccurately:

Provided that, where a public supplier removes a meter under this subparagraph, it shall keep it safely until the Government Electric Inspector authorises it to destroy or otherwise dispose or utilise it.

- (7) A public supplier may require the replacement of any meter installed or may affix a substituted meter, where its replacement or substitution -
- (a) is necessary to secure compliance with the Act or these Regulations;
 - (b) is necessary for the public supplier to be satisfied that the meter is accurately registering all electricity consumption on the consumer's premises; or
 - (c) is otherwise reasonable in the circumstances.
- (8) Every consumer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of the public supplier's meters and all other apparatus installed on his premises for the supply of electricity, and a consumer shall not connect, disconnect, tamper with, alter or otherwise interfere with or permit any person, other than an officer or servant of the public supplier, to interfere with a public supplier's meter or other apparatus.
- (9) The consumer shall be responsible for any damage to or loss or destruction of a public supplier's meter or apparatus or other installation on the consumer's premises caused otherwise than by force majeure or by any act within the control of the public supplier, and the consumer shall pay to the public supplier the replacement cost resulting from any such damage, loss or destruction.
- (1) Every public utility shall supply its consumers at intervals of approximately one month, or at such other intervals as may be directed by the Commission in relation to any consumer or class of consumers, with a bill showing the sum payable by the consumer on account of the public supplier's supply of electricity during the preceding month, or during such other period as may be directed by the Commission.
- (2) A public supplier may include in a consumer's bill for the supply of electricity any unpaid charges for work done or services rendered by the public supplier in or about the consumer's supply, including administrative charges for collection and charges for bounced cheques, and such charges shall remain subject to the terms and

conditions of payment for the supply of electricity under these Regulations and the Public Utilities Commission Act 1999.

- (3) A public supplier's omission to dispatch any bill shall not release a consumer from responsibility for the charges for electricity supplied, work done or services rendered to or for such consumer.
- (4) Except where otherwise expressly agreed between a consumer and a public supplier, every bill shall be payable within twenty-one days of the issue of the bill, and if payment in full is not made within that period, the public supplier may -
 - (a) without notice, disconnect the supply in question, as well as any supply of electricity provided to the same consumer at another premises;
 - (b) assess a single administration charge in the amount of no more than five hundred dollars;
 - (c) assess the expense of disconnecting any supply of electricity under paragraph (a); and
 - (d) charge interest on the amount remaining unpaid after the twenty-one day period, at the rate of eight percent per annum or at such higher rate as may be specified by the Commission,

and, where the consumer renders payment in full of any bill more than twenty-one days after issuance of such bill, any disconnection effected within one working day after the public supplier's receipt of such payment shall be deemed to have been properly made.

- (5) For purposes of these Regulations, a bill shall be deemed to be issued when it is posted.
16. (1) Subject to subparagraphs (2) and (3) and paragraph 17, sums billed to and payable by a consumer shall be for actual electricity supplied and shall be determined by reading the meter through which electricity is supplied to such consumer's premises:

Provided that, if a consumer requests and takes a supply of electricity for a period not exceeding six months, the public supplier supplying the electricity may require

that such consumer pay in advance the whole or part of the estimated cost of providing such supply:

Provided further that, with the approval of the Commission, a public supplier may bill a consumer for electricity on a flat rate or on an estimated use basis where the amount of electricity normally used by such consumer is too low to justify the expense of installing or reading a meter.

- (2) If, for any reason not within a public supplier's control, the public supplier is unable to secure access to read a meter on a consumer's premises, the public supplier may determine the amount of electricity supplied to the premises based on a reasonable estimate of actual consumption of electricity by the consumer during any month in the previous six months.
 - (3) If, for a period exceeding two months, a public supplier is unable to read a meter on a consumer's premises due to tampering with the meter or the consumer's failure to ensure that the public supplier has access to the relevant meter, the public supplier shall have the option -
 - (a) without notice, to disconnect the supply of electricity to the consumer's premises, and the supply shall not be reconnected until the meter is repaired, re-secured or re-sited on the premises to the satisfaction of the public supplier and the Government Electric Inspector, with the consumer to bear the cost of such repair, re-securing or re-siting of the meter; or
 - (b) to continue the supply of electricity and determine and bill for the amount of electricity supplied on the basis of the estimation made under subparagraph (2) until such time as the public supplier is able to repair, re-secure or re-site the meter or to secure access to the meter, and any such estimation shall be conclusive as to the amount payable by the consumer, who shall also bear the cost of any necessary repair, re-securing or re-siting of the meter.
17. (1) If, for reasons other than tampering with a meter or the consumer's failure to ensure that the public supplier has access to the relevant meter, a public supplier is unable to read a meter on the consumer's

premises or is satisfied that the meter has not accurately registered the amount of electricity supplied to a consumer's premises, the public supplier may determine the amount of electricity supplied based on a reasonable estimate of actual consumption of electricity by the consumer during any month in the previous six months:

Provided that the public supplier may determine the amount of electricity supplied pursuant to this subparagraph for a period of no more than two consecutive billing periods, during which the public supplier shall remedy its inability to read the relevant meter or repair, re-secure or re-site such meter in order to ensure that it is accurately registering the amount of electricity supplied.

- (2) (a) If a consumer has reason to believe that the meter through which electricity is supplied to his premises is not registering accurately, he may so notify the public supplier in writing to that effect.
 - (b) If the public supplier is satisfied that the meter may be registering inaccurately, it shall test the meter and carry out any repair that may be necessary without charge to the consumer.
 - (c) If the meter tested pursuant to this subparagraph shall be found to be accurate, the consumer shall pay a standard testing fee therefor.
18. (1) If any difference arises between any consumer and a public supplier as to any registering or reading of a meter or any other matter provided in paragraphs 16 and 17, such difference shall be determined on application of either party by a Government Electric Inspector, and the decision of the Government Electric Inspector, including his decision as to which party shall bear the cost of such proceeding, shall be final and binding on the parties.
- (2) In the absence of proof of tampering with the meter or of fraud on the part of the consumer or the public supplier as to the issue to be determined under subparagraph (1), the register of the relevant meter within the parameters previously prescribed by a Government Electric Inspector shall be conclusive.

- (3) Except with the approval of the Government Electric Inspector, no meter, which is the subject of a proceeding to resolve a difference between a consumer and a public supplier, shall be removed or altered by the public supplier or the consumer until after the difference is resolved by agreement of the parties to the difference or by the Government Electric Inspector under this paragraph.
19. If a consumer quits any premises at which electricity has been supplied to him by a public supplier without giving the notice required under paragraph 10(b), in such a manner that the notice is received by the public supplier at least twenty working days, or such other period as otherwise required by the public supplier's Standard Terms and Conditions, or in any other contract between the consumer and the public supplier, before the consumer quits the premises, such consumer shall be liable to pay the public supplier all charges in respect of the supply of electricity to the premises accruing up to whichever of the following first occurs -
- (a) the expiry of twenty working days after the public supplier receives the notice required under paragraph 10(b), or such other period as otherwise required by the public supplier's Standard Terms and Conditions or in any other contract between such consumer and the public supplier; or
- (b) the day from which any subsequent owner or occupier of the premises requires the public supplier to supply electricity to the premises.
20. If a consumer quits any premises at which electricity has been supplied to him by a public supplier without first paying all charges due from him in respect of the supply, or the provision of any electricity meter, electric line or other electrical apparatus, or any other charge permitted by these Regulations or the Commission, the public supplier may refuse to furnish such consumer with a supply of electricity at any other premises until he pays the amounts due:

Provided that such public supplier shall not be entitled to require payment of amounts due from a consumer pursuant to this paragraph from the next consumer requiring a supply of electricity to the premises.

21. In addition to a public supplier's right to discontinue the supply of electricity and recover charges due therefor under paragraph 15(4), a public supplier may, without notice, discontinue the supply of electricity to

a consumer's premises or to any other premises owned or occupied by such consumer and recover any amounts due for so doing from such consumer -

- (a) if the consumer fails to comply with any term of his supply contract or the Regulations made under the Act;
- (b) if the consumer intentionally or by culpable negligence damages or allows to be damaged any electricity meter, electric line or other electrical apparatus belonging to a public supplier on the consumer's premises; or
- (c) if there is no valid contract in force in relation to such supply of electricity.

22. Without prejudice to a public supplier's right to discontinue the supply of electricity under these Regulations, an owner of premises, to which a public supplier supplies electricity under a supply contract between the public supplier and the occupier of such premises (such occupier not being the owner of the premises), shall have no authority or right to cause the public supplier to discontinue such supply, except upon presentation to the public supplier of evidence that the occupier is occupying the premises contrary to law, and, except upon the owner's presentation of such evidence, a public supplier shall not discontinue a supply of electricity to such occupier.

23. If a consumer is being supplied with electricity by a public supplier at two or more premises and the supply of electricity to one or more of such premises has been disconnected at the consumer's request, or otherwise pursuant to these Regulations, the public supplier may include, in its bills for the supply of electricity to such premises which remain connected, any amount due in respect of the disconnected supply, and the total amount included in the bill shall be deemed to be the charge for the supply of electricity to the connected premises.

24. If a supply of electricity to a consumer's premises is disconnected under these Regulations, the supply shall be reconnected only after -

- (a) the consumer shall have paid in full all amounts due to the public supplier, including the cost of disconnecting and reconnecting any supply of electricity;
- (b) the consumer shall have -

- (i) paid the public supplier for any damage to the public supplier's electricity meter, electric lines or other apparatus;
 - (ii) rectified any failure to comply with any term of his supply contract or any provision of the Act or these Regulations; and
 - (iii) a valid supply contract shall be in force as to such supply of electricity; and
- (c) the consumer has given any security as may be required by the public supplier under section 28 of the Act.
25. Upon the consumer's compliance with paragraph 24, a public supplier shall be required to reconnect any supply of electricity that has been disconnected pursuant to these Regulations within two working days of such compliance.
26. Where a supply of electricity to any premises has been disconnected pursuant to these Regulations, no person other than the public supplier shall, without the written consent of the public supplier, restore the supply.

Additional Penalties and Liabilities

27. (1) Any person who fails to provide to a consumer the documents required by a public supplier under paragraph 4(1) and (2) except where such documents are not available to such person or it is unreasonable in the circumstances to require such person to provide them, shall be guilty of an offence and upon summary conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.
- (2) Any person who provides false documents to a public supplier requiring such documents under these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and upon summary conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.
- (3) Any person who assaults, molests, hinders or obstructs any Government Electric Inspector, any official of a public supplier, or any accompanying person authorised under paragraph 13(2) in making or attempting to make any entry or inspection or in executing any of the works authorised by the Act or these

Regulations, shall be guilty of an offence and upon summary conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

- (4) Any person who maliciously, intentionally or by culpable negligence damages or allows to be damaged any electricity meter, electric line or other electrical apparatus belonging to a public supplier or any public light or other electric installation for the benefit of the public, or who otherwise maliciously, intentionally or by culpable negligence causes any interruption to the supply of electricity, or incites any other person to do so, shall be guilty of an offence and on summary conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.
- (5) Any person who intentionally, fraudulently or by culpable negligence alters the register of any meter used for measuring the amount of electricity supplied to any premises by a public supplier or who prevents such meter from duly registering the amount of electricity supplied shall be guilty of an offence and on summary conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for one year.
- (6) Any person who maliciously or fraudulently abstracts, causes to be wasted or diverted, consumes, or uses, any electricity shall be guilty of an offence and on summary conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for one year.
- (7) Any person whose supply of electricity may have been disconnected for any reason permitted by these Regulations and who shall himself restore, or who shall procure any other person to restore or to apply for a supply of electricity in the name of such other person but for the benefit of himself, shall be guilty of an offence and on summary conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

28. Where any person is prosecuted for an offence under the Act or these Regulations, the possession by him (either on his premises or otherwise) of artificial means or any other apparatus for causing an alteration of the register of a meter or the prevention of the meter from duly registering, or for abstracting, diverting, wasting, consuming or using electricity, shall, if

the meter was in his custody or under his control or if the artificial means or other apparatus was so placed on his premises so as to alter or prevent the registration of the meter or to abstract, divert, waste, consume or use electricity, be prima facie evidence that the alteration, prevention, abstraction, consumption or use was intentionally, fraudulently, or willfully caused by him.

29. If any offence of which a person is convicted is continued by such person after conviction, he shall be guilty of a further offence and liable to a fine of ten thousand dollars for every day on which the offence is continued.
30. In addition to the penalties imposed in the Act and these Regulations, a public supplier may recover from any person the amount of any loss sustained by the public supplier due to such person's damaging, or allowing to be damaged, any electricity meter, electric line or other apparatus or installation belonging to the public supplier, or due to such person's alteration of the registration of any electricity meter or prevention of its due registration or unauthorised reconnection of an electricity supply, or due to such person's abstraction, diversion, waste, consumption or use of electricity, and such person shall be liable to compensate the public supplier for the replacement value of such property of the public supplier.
31. The penalties and liabilities imposed in these Regulations are without prejudice to any other right or remedy for the protection of a public supplier or the punishment of the offender, and any penalties for violations of these Regulations, the punishment for which or the recovery of which is not otherwise specially provided for herein, may be imposed or recovered under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.
32. (1) Subject to subparagraph (2), a public supplier who fails or refuses to supply electricity to any consumer otherwise than as authorised by this Act or any regulations made thereunder, shall be liable on summary conviction, in respect of each consumer in respect of whom it fails or refuses to supply electricity, to a fine of five thousand dollars for each day during which the offence is continued.
 - (2) In any proceedings under subparagraph (1), it shall be a defence for the public supplier charged to prove -
 - (a) that such failure or refusal to supply electricity was due to

- (i) an unavoidable accident;
 - (ii) latent wear and tear to the public supplier's electrical apparatus or installation;
 - (iii) overloading due to any unauthorised connection, directly or indirectly, to the public supplier's or the consumer's system, apparatus or installation;
 - (iv) the reasonable requirements of the public supplier in the proper performance of its obligations under a licence or this Act; or
 - (v) defects in any electrical apparatus or installation not provided by the public supplier; and
- (b) that it took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid such unauthorised supply of, or failure or refusal to supply, electricity.
- (3) Any difference or dispute arising between a public supplier and a consumer under this paragraph shall be determined by arbitration as provided in section 64.

Standard Terms and Conditions

33. (1) Where in a licence there are Standard Terms and Conditions regarding the matters provided for in this Schedule or any other matter, the provisions of such Standard Terms and Conditions shall apply and not this Schedule.
- (2) Standard Terms and Conditions included in a licence as provided in subparagraph (1) may be amended with the prior approval of the Commission.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Electricity Sector Reform Bill 1999 (ESRA) repeals and replaces the two major laws that currently govern Guyana's electricity sector, *i.e.*, the Electricity Act, which created and regulated the state-owned Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC), and the Electric Lighting Act. The Bill consists of four major Parts and three Schedules that comprehensively reform the electricity sector. Following a preliminary Part that provides definitions of the terms used in the Bill, Part II creates a modernised regulatory structure for the Government's licensing of the supply of electricity by both public suppliers (such as Guyana Power & Light, Inc. and independent power producers) and private suppliers (such as individuals and companies that supply electricity to themselves and others in their immediate vicinity). Part II ensures that, unless terminated in accordance with its terms or revoked in accordance with its provisions, a licence will remain in effect for the full term for which it is granted. Part II also contains standards and procedures for monitoring compliance with the terms of licences for the supply of electricity; for modifying, extending, suspending or revoking licences; and for appealing a suspension or revocation of a licence. To ensure that licence-holders are treated equitably upon the revocation, termination or non-renewal of their licences, Part II also contains a provision establishing the principles and procedures through which the Government, or its designee, may purchase — at fair market value — the share of a public supplier, or, if the Government does not exercise its right to purchase the public supplier's shares, the public supplier is free to sell its business as it sees fit.

Part II of the ESRA continues with provisions governing the principles upon which public suppliers are empowered and are required to operate. It empowers public suppliers in areas such as the erection and maintenance of their lines and other installations and, with the Government's assistance, the acquisition of land for use in supplying electricity to the public. Part II, as supplemented by new Public Electricity Supply Regulations appended as the Third Schedule to the Bill or as modified by Standard Terms and Conditions included in a public supplier's licence, defines the relationship between public suppliers and consumers in such comprehensive areas as formation of contracts to supply electricity, the charges that can be levied for electricity, billing parameters, the use of electricity meters, penalties for the theft of electricity or destruction of a public supplier's property, and dispute resolution between public suppliers and consumers. Part II also defines the broad principles governing the rates that can be charged to consumers by public suppliers, and, as an integral part of the transaction between the Government and the Strategic Investor in Guyana Power & Light, Inc., the First and Second Schedules to the ESRA in conjunction with Guyana Power & Light, Inc.'s licence, set forth the specialised procedures, principles and formulae for determination of the rates that Guyana Power & Light, Inc. will be permitted to charge consumers. Part II concludes with provisions that require all public suppliers to maintain annual and rolling five-year sustainability programmes and development and expansion programmes. The concluding sections of Part II also set forth the types of books, records, accounts and performance statistics that must be maintained by a public supplier and submitted to the Government and made available to the public on an annual basis.

Part III of the Bill accomplishes the reform of the electricity sector necessary to establish Guyana Power & Light, Inc. as a public company limited by shares and operated in accordance with commercial principles, and to effect the transfer and vesting of assets and liabilities, rights and obligations of the Guyana Electricity

Corporation to Guyana Power & Light, Inc., specified in a Vesting Order issued by the Minister. Part III also empowers Guyana Power & Light, Inc. to issue shares to the Government and the Strategic Investor, concurrent with the closing of the Strategic Investor's investment, and to issue other orders to effect the investment transaction between the Government, the Strategic Investor and Guyana Power & Light, Inc. Part III provides for the granting of a licence to supply electricity to Guyana Power & Light, Inc., and ensures that the company has the way-leaves, rights-of-way and easements necessary to carry out its licensed activities. Part III also provides for the Guyana Electricity Corporation's conversion from a corporation to a public company limited by shares under the Companies Act 1991, and provides sources for liquidation of the liabilities remaining with the Guyana Electricity Corporation, Inc. Finally, Part III sets forth the principles governing such matters as rural electrification programmes and the relationship between Guyana Power & Light, Inc. and independent power producers.

Part IV of the Bill specifies the Minister's regulatory powers and limits those powers to areas that are appropriate for governmental regulation, e.g., public safety, the definition of technical standards and the procedure for licensing the supply of electricity, and matters affecting national energy policy. Part IV also requires that, before taking any action authorised or required by the Act, the Minister apply a test that balances the consumers' interest, public safety, the financial health of electricity suppliers, investor interest in achieving a guaranteed or reasonable rate of return on capital invested, and the national interest in enforcing the Bill, protecting the environment and carrying out national energy policy. Part IV also defines an electricity supplier's liability and immunity from liability during the course of supplying electricity and establishes arbitration procedures for the resolution of disputes. Finally, Part IV sets forth the penalties for violations of the Act and repeals the Electricity Sector Reform Act 1997.



Prime Minister and Senior Minister of Public
Works and Communications

ANNEX I

of the Second Schedule to the Electricity Sector Reform Act 1999

1999 and 2000 Rates

HEADLINE AND ACTUAL RATES:

	Headline Rates (G\$)		1999 Actual Rates (G\$)				2000 Actual Rates (G\$)			
	1st Dec	2000	1-Jan	1-Apr	1-Jul	1-Oct	1-Jan	1-Apr	1-Jul	1-Oct
Rate A (Residential) (Note 3)										
Fixed Charge per Month	183.12	Note 1	151.50	156.09	160.82	165.69	177.48	182.86	188.40	194.11
Energy Charge per kWh (100kWh/mo and less)	19.42	" "	16.07	16.56	17.06	17.57	18.82	19.40	19.98	20.59
Energy Charge per kWh (over 100kWh/mo)	19.42	" "	16.96	17.73	18.54	19.39	20.87	21.50	22.15	22.82
Rate B (Commercial)										
Fixed Charge per Month	1220.80	Note 1	1060.50	1092.63	1125.74	1159.85	1236.18	1254.82	1273.74	1292.94
Energy Charge per kWh	28.08	" "	24.39	25.13	25.89	26.68	28.43	28.86	29.30	29.74
Rate C (Industrial)										
Demand Charge per kVA per month	915.60	Note 1	795.38	819.48	844.31	869.89	922.52	922.52	922.52	922.52
Energy Charge (for monthly consumption up to the sum of 4000kWh plus 120kWh per kVA of billing)	25.98	" "	22.57	23.25	23.96	24.68	26.17	26.17	26.17	26.17
For Additional kWh	22.74	" "	19.76	20.36	20.97	21.61	22.92	22.92	22.92	22.92
Minimum Per Month (Note 4)	45780.00	" "	39789.00	40974.00	42215.00	43494.00	46126.00	46126.00	46126.00	46126.00
Rate D (Industrial)										
Demand Charge per kVA per month	915.60	Note 1	795.38	819.48	844.31	869.89	922.52	922.52	922.52	922.52
Energy Charge (for monthly consumption up to the sum of 4000kWh plus 120kWh per kVA of billing)	24.57	" "	21.35	21.99	22.66	23.35	24.76	24.76	24.76	24.76
For Additional kWh	21.34	" "	18.54	19.10	19.68	20.27	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.50
Minimum per Month (Note 4)	91560.00	" "	79538.00	81948.00	84431.00	86989.00	92252.00	92252.00	92252.00	92252.00
Rate E (Street Lighting)										
Energy Charge per kWh	20.86	Note 1	18.12	18.67	19.24	19.82	21.02	21.02	21.02	21.02

SERVICE RATES

	1999 Service Rates (G\$)	2000 Service Rates (G\$)
Meter Investigation Fee	\$2000 for residential customers, and for other customers the fee will be \$2000 or the actual cost of the investigation, whichever is greater Note 2
Reconnection Charge	\$2000, plus any other applicable charges under the Standard Terms and Conditions Note 2
Connection Fee (No new facilities required)	G\$2000 during business hours, or actual costs if outside of normal business hours. Note 2

Notes:

- 1 The Headline Rates for year 2000 will be determined in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Second Schedule to the Electricity Sector Reform Act 1999.
- 2 Year 2000 Service Rates will be determined in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Second Schedule to the Electricity Sector Reform Act 1999.
- 3 For residential customers, the Energy Charge (100kWh/mo. or Less) applies only to those customers whose total electricity consumption in that month is less than or equal to 100kWh. The Energy Charge (over 100kWh/mo.) applies to the total electricity consumption of all other residential customers.
- 4 "Minimum per Month" charges for Industrial Customers (Rates C and D) shall be the higher of those shown in this Annex or in Guyana Power & Light, Inc.'s Standard Terms and Conditions.