

Republic of the Philippines  
**ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City



**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF ADJUSTMENT IN RATES BASED ON THE FOURTH TO SIXTH REGULATORY YEARS OF THE FIRST REGULATORY PERIOD FOR THIRD ENTRANT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES UNDER THE TARIFF GLIDE PATH (TGP) RULES, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY**

**ERC CASE NO. 2018-070 RC**

**BILIRAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BILECO), Applicant.**

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**D O C K E T E D**  
Date: JUL 31 2018  
By: W

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that on 29 June 2018, applicant Biliran Electric Cooperative Inc. (BILECO) filed an *Application with Motion for Provisional Authority* (Application) dated 20 June, seeking the approval of adjustment in rates based on the Fourth to Sixth Regulatory Years of the First Regulatory Period for Third Entrant Electric Cooperatives under the Tariff Glide Path (TGP) Rules, with prayer for provisional authority.

BILECO alleged the following in its *Application*:

#### **THE APPLICANT**

1. BILECO is a non-stock, non-profit electric cooperative duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines with principal office at Brgy. Caraycaray, Naval Biliran;

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2. It holds an exclusive franchise from the National Electrification Commission to operate an electric light and power distribution service in the seven (7) municipalities of the Province of Biliran, namely: Naval, Biliran, Cabucgayan, Caibiran, Culaba, Kawayan and Almeria;

**NATURE OF APPLICATION**

3. The instant Application is being filed for the approval of Applicant's proposed adjustment in its Distribution, Supply and Metering (DSM) Rates based on the Fourth to Sixth Regulatory Years of the First Regulatory Period and to be implemented on the First to Third Regulatory Years of the Second Regulatory Period for electric cooperatives belonging to the Third Entrant Group under the Tariff Glide Path Rules (TGP Rules) and pursuant to said Rules, as well as other pertinent laws and rules;

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

4. Sometime in 2015, Applicant filed with the Honorable Commission an application for approval of the proposed adjustment in its DSM Rates pursuant to the TGP Rules, docketed as ERC CASE No. 2015-125 RC;
5. In the said application, Applicant prayed for the approval of either of the following two (2) proposed alternative DSM rates, to be implemented effective January 2016, to wit:

**A. WITH PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE "S"**

|                              | UNITS            | CUSTOMER TYPE |               |                |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                              |                  | Residential   | Low Voltage   | Higher Voltage |
| <b>Distribution Charges:</b> |                  |               |               |                |
| Demand Charge                | PhP/kW           |               |               | <b>323.16</b>  |
| Distribution System Charge   | PhP/kWh          | <b>1.1278</b> | <b>1.2367</b> |                |
| <b>Supply Charges:</b>       |                  |               |               |                |
| Retail Customer Charge       | PhP/Customer /Mo |               | <b>45.74</b>  | <b>45.74</b>   |
| Supply System Charge         | PhP/kWh          | <b>1.0984</b> |               |                |
| <b>Metering Charges:</b>     |                  |               |               |                |
| Retail Customer Charge       | PhP/Meter/Mo     | <b>5.34</b>   | <b>31.11</b>  | <b>31.11</b>   |
| Metering System Charge       | PhP/kWh          | <b>.6187</b>  |               |                |

**B. EXCLUDING PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE "S"**

|                              | UNITS | CUSTOMER TYPE |             |                |
|------------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
|                              |       | Residential   | Low Voltage | Higher Voltage |
| <b>Distribution Charges:</b> |       |               |             |                |

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|                            |                         |               |               |               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Demand Charge              | PhP/kW                  |               |               | <b>319.23</b> |
| Distribution System Charge | PhP/kWh                 | <b>1.1141</b> | <b>1.2217</b> |               |
| <b>Supply Charges:</b>     |                         |               |               |               |
| Retail Customer Charge     | PhP/<br>Customer/<br>Mo |               | <b>45.19</b>  | <b>45.19</b>  |
| Supply System Charge       | PhP/kWh                 | <b>1.0850</b> |               |               |
| <b>Metering Charges:</b>   |                         |               |               |               |
| Retail Customer Charge     | PhP/Meter/Mo.           | <b>5.28</b>   | <b>30.73</b>  | <b>30.73</b>  |
| Metering System Charge     | PhP/kWh                 | <b>.6112</b>  |               |               |

6. Foregoing application was Applicant's initial application for DSM rate adjustment pursuant to the TGP Rules, under which electric cooperatives are given an opportunity to adjust their rates once every three (3) years, which may occur at the start of the fourth year of the First Regulatory Period and every three (3) years thereafter;
7. Applicant belongs to the Third Entrant Group under the TGP Rules, whose first regulatory period is from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2018. Having filed its initial application for DSM rate adjustment intended to take effect on the fourth year of the First Regulatory Period, BILECO is filing the instant Application in the current year 2018, the sixth regulatory year of the First Regulatory Period, for the proposed adjustment of its DSM rates to be implemented on the First to Third Regulatory Years of the Second Regulatory Period for the Third Entrant Electric Cooperatives under the TGP Rules;
8. Applicant's first TGP application under ERC CASE No. 2015-125 RC is still pending evaluation of the Honorable Commission but in spite thereof, Applicant adopted and used the proposed DSM rates in the said application as its bases in computing the proposed adjustment in the instant Application;

**PROPOSED DSM RATE ADJUSTMENT**

9. Under the TGP Rules, the concerned electric cooperative shall use the following formula in determining the TGP for the fourth to sixth years of the Regulatory Period, to wit:

$$TGPB = TGP_n + TGP_{n+1} TGP_{n+2}$$

where

$$TGP_n = I_n - X_n + S_n$$

n= the fourth year of the Regulatory Period and succeeding Regulatory Periods;

10. Applying the methodology embodied in the TGP Rules, Applicant calculated the values of the "I", "X" and "S" and came up with the following results, to wit:

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|                  | "I"(B)       | "X"(B)       | "S"(B)       | TGP B         | TGP B<br>(excluding S) |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| <b>YEAR 2016</b> | <b>0.00%</b> | <b>0.00%</b> | <b>0.90%</b> | <b>0.90%</b>  | <b>00.00%</b>          |
| <b>YEAR 2017</b> | <b>0.00%</b> | <b>2.48%</b> | <b>0.90%</b> | <b>-1.58%</b> | <b>-2.48%</b>          |
| <b>YEAR 2018</b> | <b>4.06%</b> | <b>0.00%</b> | <b>1.30%</b> | <b>5.36%</b>  | <b>4.06%</b>           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     |              |              |              | <b>4.68%</b>  | <b>1.58%</b>           |

11. Utilizing the above values will result in adjustments in Applicant's DSM Rates to be implemented on the First to Third Years of the Second Regulatory Period for electric cooperatives belonging to the Third Entrant Group, as follows:

**A. WITH PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE "S"**

|                              | UNITS           | CUSTOMER TYPE |               |                |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                              |                 | Residential   | Low Voltage   | Higher Voltage |
| <b>Distribution Charges:</b> |                 |               |               |                |
| Demand Charge                | PhP/Kw          |               |               | <b>338.30</b>  |
| Distribution System Charge   | PhP/kWh         | <b>1.1806</b> | <b>1.2947</b> |                |
| <b>Supply Charges:</b>       |                 |               |               |                |
| Retail Customer Charge       | PhP/Customer/Mo |               | <b>47.89</b>  | <b>47.89</b>   |
| Supply System Charge         | PhP/kWh         | <b>1.1498</b> |               |                |
| <b>Metering Charges:</b>     |                 |               |               |                |
| Retail Customer Charge       | PhP/Meter/Mo.   | <b>5.59</b>   | <b>32.57</b>  | <b>32.57</b>   |
| Metering System Charge       | PhP/kWh         | <b>.6477</b>  |               |                |

**B. EXCLUDING PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE "S"**

|                              | UNITS           | CUSTOMER TYPE |               |                |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                              |                 | Residential   | Low Voltage   | Higher Voltage |
| <b>Distribution Charges:</b> |                 |               |               |                |
| Demand Charge                | PhP/kW          |               |               | <b>324.29</b>  |
| Distribution System Charge   | PhP/kWh         | <b>1.1317</b> | <b>1.2410</b> |                |
| <b>Supply Charges:</b>       |                 |               |               |                |
| Retail Customer Charge       | PhP/Customer/Mo |               | <b>45.90</b>  | <b>45.90</b>   |
| Supply System Charge         | PhP/kWh         | <b>1.1022</b> |               |                |
| <b>Metering Charges:</b>     |                 |               |               |                |
| Retail Customer Charge       | PhP/Meter/Mo.   | <b>5.36</b>   | <b>31.22</b>  | <b>31.22</b>   |
| Metering System Charge       | PhP/kWh         | <b>.6209</b>  |               |                |

12. Consequently, Applicant respectfully prays that it be allowed to implement either of the above two calculated alternative DSM rates, effective January 1, 2019 and up to December 31, 2021;

**SUPPORTING DATA AND DOCUMENTS**

13. In support of the foregoing computations, Applicant is submitting herewith the following documents, which are being made integral parts hereof, to wit:

| <b>Annex Markings</b> | <b>Nature of Document</b>   |
|-----------------------|---|
| A to A-2              | Proposed TGP Calculations and supporting documents using the prescribed templates:<br>Index "I" Calculation<br>Efficiency Factor "X" Calculation<br>Performance Incentive "S" Calculation |
| B                     | MFSR - Sections B and E (2014-2017)   |
| C                     | Billing Determinants Template (2014-2017 kWh Sales, No. of Customers and kW Demand)   |
| D                     | Sample Bills per customer type (2014-2017)  |
| E                     | Regional CPI (2014-2017)  |
| F                     | RFSC Utilization (2015-2017)  |
| G                     | Consumer Complaints Summary or Tracking Form (2015-2017)  |
| H                     | Audited Financial Statements (2015-2017)  |

**ALLEGATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY**

14. Applicant respectfully repleads herein the foregoing allegations;
15. Applicant respectfully prays that it be allowed to implement the proposed rate adjustment starting January 1, 2019, considering that it is expressly prescribed under the TGP Rules' provision on Regulatory Period and Process, which provides in part, as follows:

**"2. Regulatory Period and Process**

- 2.1 On or before each Fourth month of the Third and Sixth regulatory year of their respective Regulatory Periods, the electric cooperative may file before the Commission an application for a rate adjustment reflecting the values for the "I", "X" and "S" as determined in accordance with these rules. ***The initial tariff caps of the respective ECs shall be adjusted by the "I, "X" and "S" effective at the start of the Fourth***

*Regulatory Year of the First  
Regulatory Period x x x* (Emphasis  
ours)

16. Under the TGP Rules, the regulatory period is six (6) years for each entry group. For the Third Entrant Group, the first regulatory period is from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2018 and the start of the Fourth Regulatory Year is January 1, 2016. Applicant belongs to the Third Entrant Group, accordingly, its initial DSM Rates under the TGP Rules should be adjusted through the proposed TGP B Rates starting January 1, 2019;
17. Aside from the foregoing, Applicant further prays for provisional authority to implement the proposed rates effective January 1, 2019 and even during the pendency of the instant Application, considering that Applicant urgently needs additional funds to be able to cope with the rising costs of its operations. Among the major factors that added to its operating costs is the implementation of the Sitio Energization Program (SEP) of the government consisting of massive extension of its distribution lines up to the remotest and far-flung areas which considerably increased its operations and maintenance costs and likewise resulted to increased system losses which the cooperative is constrained to absorb;
18. Further, the rising cost of materials, tools, equipment, supplies, fuel and other costs incidental to its daily operations has considerably increased these past several years and the funds being generated from Applicant's DSM charges, the rates of which were granted by the Honorable Commission way back in Year 2010 by virtue of the Rules for Setting the Electric Cooperatives' Wheeling Rates (RSEC-WR), are no longer sufficient to cover those costs, and if not addressed accordingly with the further adjustment of its rates, Applicant's service to its consumers will be prejudiced;
19. Considering the foregoing, it is respectfully prayed that Applicant be allowed to implement the proposed DSM Rates effective January 1, 2019, even while the instant Application is pending hearing or evaluation of the Honorable Commission.

**COMPLIANCE**  
**WITH PRE-FILING REQUIREMENTS**

20. Finally, in compliance with the pre-filing requirements under the ERC Rules of Practice and Procedure, Applicant is likewise submitting herewith the following documents, which are being made integral parts hereof, to wit:

| <b>Annex Markings</b> | <b>Nature of Document</b>   |
|-----------------------|---|
| I                     | Judicial Affidavit in support of the Motion for Provisional Authority |
| J and series          | Proof of furnishing copies of the Application                         |

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|              |  |
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|              | to the Sangguniang Bayan of Naval and Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Biliran  |
| K and series | Proof of publication of the Application in a newspaper of general circulation in BILECO's franchise area or where it principally operates. |

**PRAYER**

**WHEREFORE**, premises considered, it is most respectfully prayed of this Honorable Commission that effective January 2019, whether upon initial evaluation hereof or after due notice and hearing, Applicant BILECO be allowed to implement either of the following two (2) alternative proposed new rates for its Distribution, Supply and Metering (DSM) Charges, to wit:

**A. WITH PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE "S"**

|                              | UNITS           | CUSTOMER TYPE |               |                |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                              |                 | Residential   | Low Voltage   | Higher Voltage |
| <b>Distribution Charges:</b> |                 |               |               |                |
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**B. EXCLUDING PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE "S"**

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| <b>Supply Charges:</b>       |                 |               |               |                |
| Retail Customer Charge       | PhP/Customer/Mo |               | <b>45.90</b>  | <b>45.90</b>   |
| Supply System Charge         | PhP/kWh         | <b>1.1022</b> |               |                |
| <b>Metering Charges:</b>     |                 |               |               |                |
| Retail Customer Charge       | PhP/Meter/Mo.   | <b>5.36</b>   | <b>31.22</b>  | <b>31.22</b>   |
| Metering System Charge       | PhP/kWh         | <b>.6209</b>  |               |                |

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Other reliefs, just and equitable in the premises, are likewise prayed for.

The Commission has set the *Application* for determination of compliance with jurisdictional requirements, expository presentation, Pre-trial Conference, and presentation of evidence on **25 October 2018 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 PM) at BILECO's Principal Office in Brgy. Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran.**

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the instant case may become a party by filing with the Commission a verified Petition to Intervene at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements under Rule 9 of the 2006 ERC Rules of Practice and Procedure, indicating therein the docket number and title of the case and stating the following:

- 1) The petitioner's name and address;
- 2) The nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and
- 3) A statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the case may file their Opposition or Comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before Applicant rests its case, subject to the requirements under Rule 9 of the 2006 ERC Rules of Practice and Procedure. No particular form of Opposition or Comment is required, but the document, letter, or writing should contain the following:

- 1) The name and address of such person;
- 2) A concise statement of the Opposition or Comment; and
- 3) The grounds relied upon.

All such persons who wish to have a copy of the *Application* may request from Applicant that they be furnished with the same, prior to the date of the initial hearing. Applicant is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the *Application* and its attachments, subject to the reimbursement of reasonable



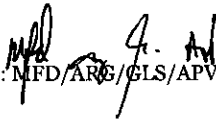
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photocopying costs. Any such person may likewise examine the *Application* and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the standard office hours.

Pasig City, 20 July 2018.

FOR AND BY AUTHORITY  
OF THE COMMISSION:

  
LS: MFD/ARG/GLS/APV

  
**AGNES VST DEVANADERA**  
*Chairperson and CEO*

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