POWER SITUATION REMAINS NORMAL ON ELECTION DAY

As the entire country exercises the right to suffrage, the Power Task Force Election (PTFE), led by the Department of Energy (DOE), continues its 24-hour power monitoring to ensure adequate, stable and reliable electricity supply during the election period, while also employing quick response to address minor glitches in a few facilities.

In a press briefing held this afternoon in Quezon City, Energy Secretary Zenaida Y. Monsada announced that “power supply situation in the country is normal” despite occurrences of minor power incidents, which were immediately restored by technical personnel on standby. She also hoped that the power situation will remain stable until all votes have been canvassed.

During the briefing, National Power Corporation (NPC) President Gladys Cruz-Sta. Rita reported that very brief power interruptions experienced in some missionary electrification areas did not impede at all the conduct of elections in over 300 Small Power Utilities Group areas. Moreover, Pres. Sta. Rita noted that its Agus-Pulangi hydro power facilities are in normal operation and the deployment of 72 gensets for use in missionary areas further augmented the power supply across the country.

In addition, Pres. Sta. Rita refuted the malicious rumor that NPC employees were on mandatory leave stressing that they were in fact, vigilantly monitoring its power facilities on a 24-hour basis as mandated for this election.

For the grid facilities, NGCP reported that the system recorded sufficient power supply in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao as of today. Sec. Monsada highlighted that the PTFE provides hourly updates with gross reserve in Luzon reaching as high as 4,000 MW considering the low demand during holiday. She added, however, that tomorrow (May 10), the PTFE expects power demand to shoot up to about 9,600 MW, but she is quick to note that power supply is still sufficient.
Power Situation...  

Power outlook for May 10, 2016:

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<th></th>
<th>LUZON</th>
<th>VISAYAS</th>
<th>MINDANAO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>System Capacity (MW)</td>
<td>10,860</td>
<td>1,864</td>
<td>1,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demand (MW)</td>
<td>9,637</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Reserve (MW)</td>
<td>1,223</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peak Demand Time</td>
<td>1:00p.m.</td>
<td>5:00p.m.-</td>
<td>5:00p.m.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00p.m.</td>
<td>7:00p.m.</td>
<td>7:00p.m.</td>
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On the distribution side, the National Electrification Administration Administrator Edita S. Bueno said that a 24-hour monitoring is also being conducted at the NEA headquarters and in 120 electric cooperatives around the country. Administrator Bueno emphasized that there was no major adverse power situation that occurred and minor ones were promptly responded to.

Head of Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) System Control Primo P. Alonzo Jr. said that the power situation in its franchise area remains stable except for an isolated case where there were two burnt poles due to grass fire affecting one voting precinct. A power generator set and new poles were then quickly installed at around 12:00 noon.

Sec. Monsada further averred that while the power situation today is normal due to the synchronization of measures from the entire energy family, the PTFE will continue to monitor developments in the sector to fully contribute to the holding a clean and credible national and local elections.

The PTFE also enjoins the public to report any power disruption or untoward incident to the following contact details:

SMART: 0998-381-6167
GLOBE: 0917-541-4917

Moreover, power supply updates on Election Day will be published through the DOE’s Twitter account (@DOE_PH), Facebook account (www.facebook.com/doe.gov.ph) and the DOE website (www.doe.gov.ph), as well as in various social networking sites of the Election Power Task Force members at a designated time in the morning, afternoon, and evening.

Even without elections, the DOE continues to encourage all energy consumers to practice efficient and judicious use of electricity in their day-to-day activities.

DOE COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENT MECHANISM IN THE RE LAW

The Department of Energy (DOE) upholds the advancement of the implementation of the policy frameworks and programs under the Republic Act 9513 otherwise known as Renewable Energy (RE) Law of 2008, which supports the promotion of RE resources’ development, utilization and commercialization.

Energy Secretary Zenaida Y. Monsada said “We have a binding law which is the RE Law, and the DOE is mandated to implement it.” Sec. Monsada emphasized that the policies and programs currently being executed by the government have undergone stringent procedures following the guidelines provided under the law.

Following a series of stakeholders’ consultations nationwide since 2011, the DOE conducted on 16 June 2016 its 8th public consultation concerning the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) at the Shangri-La Fort, Bonifacio Global City. This is in an effort to present the shared perspective on the provisions of the issuance for further fine tuning. The RPS refers to a market-based policy that mandates participating companies to source an agreed portion of their energy supply from eligible RE resources.

“The outcome in the discussions will help us finalize the Department Circular on RPS prior to its issuance,” said Sec. Monsada. She further stated that the DOE still welcomes position papers until 22 June 2016 from industry participants and stakeholders to ensure a holistic approach, and all suggestions are noted and heard. Copies of the proposed RPS issuance and comments and or recommendations submitted are available at www.doe.gov.ph.

Meanwhile, the implementation of the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) is in full swing consistent with Department Circular No. DC2013-05-0009 or “Guidelines for the Selection Process of RE Projects under FIT System and the Award of the Certificate for FIT Eligibility,” which outlines the procedure for the Certificate of Endorsement (COE) for FIT Eligibility (COE-FIT). The DOE issues the COE-FIT after undergoing validation and review of technical requirements.

Attached is the list of those with issued COE for FIT endorsed to the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). The increased capacity in COE FIT can be attributed to the completion of the second tranche of the 500 MW solar FIT installation target entitled to P8.69/kWh.

Sec. Monsada said “the DOE, through the Renewable Energy Management Bureau, has worked day and night to ensure that each eligible solar developer strictly followed the process and technical requirements.” She added that the DOE assures the best interest of the public and all RE developers particularly in meeting the
In institutionalizing gender balance and equality, the Department of Energy (DOE) formally launches the “Gender Toolkit for the Energy Sector” on 29 June 2016 at Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City.

Outgoing Energy Secretary Zenaida Y. Monsada said “the DOE Gender Toolkit is a milestone for the sector and a glorification of my leadership in the agency being the first female Secretary.” Relatively, Sec. Monsada has been with the DOE for 37 years and rose from the ranks showing that women are able and capable to perform works related to science and technology, among others.

Moreover, in her speech delivered by Asst. Dir. Carmencita A. Bariso as the Head of Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System Technical Working Group, she also said it is “the very testament of our strong desire to pursue gender equality and women empowerment in our workplace by giving emphasis on the many possibilities that women can do.”

The DOE recognizes women as competent partners in nation building, particularly in policy and decision-making, through crafting and implementing programs and projects (e.g., Girls and Science, Girls in Science program, Gender Mapping, & various IECs regarding energy safety and efficiency for Households) which are devoted to uplifting not only the female gender’s morale, but also educating the male counterpart of their important role towards the advocacy of gender balance.

The DOE, through the GAD Toolkit, provided a set of guidelines and reference materials to its internal units, attached agencies, and other offices and organizations in the energy sector to make their operations, policies and programs to be more responsive to the gender concerns of their stakeholders.

The toolkit consists of four parts:

The GAD Strategic Framework, which affirms the DOE’s role in providing directives and affirming the commitment of the DOE in providing equal opportunities and participation to both men and women in the energy sector as well as protecting and fulfilling their rights.

Integrating the twin goals of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in the energy sector polices, plans, programs, and projects.

The GAD Checklist, which serves as filter and rating worksheet for assessing the gender sensitivity or responsiveness of the program/project design.

Mainstreaming gender equality and women empowerment perspectives in the operation and main mandates of the DOE, its attached agencies, and other energy offices.

The toolkit was developed through the collaborative efforts of the energy Gender and Development-Focal Point System (GAD-FPS) and the Philippine Commission on Women, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It has also two soft launches, in which one was at the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women held at the UN Headquarters in New York last March, and the other was at the H2O Hotel in December 2015.

Anchored on the Republic Act (R.A.) 7192 otherwise known as The Women in Development and National Building Act and R.A. 9170 on the Magna Carta for Women, the DOE-GAD program is implemented nationwide given the annual allocation of five percent (5%) of its budget under the General Appropriations Act since 1995.

Projects under DOE-GAD program include the renewable energy projects in collaboration with the Affiliated Renewable Energy Centers in state universities; information, education and communication campaigns in various local government units discussing energy safety, and efficiency, capacity building on gender sensitivity and mainstreaming, and projects to increase awareness among high school students on science subjects and encourage them to take up college course relevant to energy.
country’s commitment towards sustainable and cleaner energy.

Pursuant to RA 9513 or RE Act of 2008, the government shall grant incentives through FIT scheme. Under the FIT System, qualified developers of emerging RE sources are offered at a fixed rate per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of their exported electricity to the distribution or transmission network. This scheme excludes the energy utilized from RE plants eligible for own use.

Along with the Net-Metering Program and RPS, FIT is one of the policy mechanisms provided in the law being implemented by the DOE to encourage the development of RE industry as it aims to maintain the share of RE of at least 30% in the country’s power mix.

Supporting the cutting of red tape to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of government agencies, the Department of Energy (DOE), through the leadership of Secretary Zenaida Y. Monsada, joined the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) Repeal Day: The Philippine Red Tape Challenge (#ProjectRepeal), in which agencies amend or revoke policy issuances that are deemed irrelevant to the current times. The event was held on June 13 at the Asian Institute of Management with the participation of heads and representatives from the Department of Finance, Department of Tourism, Department of Trade and Industry, Senate of the Philippines, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

DOE Committed... 2

**The Consumer Welfare and Promotion Office (CWPO) is the unit of the Department of Energy that formulates and implements policies and programs on consumer information, welfare promotion, empowerment and protection relative to the energy sector.**

What do you think of our newsletter? Send your comments via e-mail: cwpo@doe.gov.ph