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ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015

Arrangement of Sections

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No. 1 of 2015

ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTRICITY ACT TO REGULATE THE INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF GENERATING STATIONS BY PERSONS USING SOLAR, WIND AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND FOR CONNECTED MATTERS.

[Date of Assent - 3rd March, 2015]

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

1. Short title and commencement.

- (1) This Act, which amends the Electricity Act¹, may be cited as the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2015.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on a day to be appointed by the Minister by notice published in the *Gazette*.

2. Amendment of section 2 of the principal Act.

Section 2 of the principal Act is amended by the insertion, immediately after the word “Minister” and its definition, of the following —

“**Minister responsible for Alternative Energy**” means the Minister who is the Government's advisor on alternative and renewable energy;”.

3. Insertion of a new section 15A into the principal Act.

The principal Act is amended by the insertion immediately after section 15 of a new section 15A as follows —

“15A. Renewable Energy.

- (1) Without prejudice to subsection (1) of section 15, the Minister may, after consultation with the Minister responsible for Alternative Energy, approve in writing the installation or operation by a person of a generating station using solar,

¹*Vol. IV, (Ch. 194-13)*

wind, or such other renewable energy sources as may be prescribed in regulations.

- (2) A renewable energy generating station approved under subsection (1) shall —
 - (a) be registered by the Minister in accordance with the regulations;
 - (b) have interconnection to the electrical grid in accordance with the terms and conditions of a grid interconnection agreement entered into between the Minister, the Corporation and the owner or operator of the generating station; and
 - (c) comply with all relevant standards and guidelines issued in relation to the —
 - (i) construction, installation, operation, and performance of renewable energy generating stations;
 - (ii) training and experience required by persons in relation to system installation and operation.
- (3) The Minister shall maintain a register of all approved renewable energy generating stations, their owners or operators and the corresponding grid interconnection agreements, including specifications of the generating stations.
- (4) An approved renewable energy generating station that is approved and registered by the Minister shall be operated at all times in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grid interconnection agreement.
- (5) The owner or operator of a renewable energy generating station installed or in operation on the date this section comes into force shall apply to the Minister for approval and registration.
- (6) The Minister may, where the owner or operator of a renewable energy generating station contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of this section or regulations made pursuant to this section, direct the Corporation to disconnect the station from the electrical grid.
- (7) The Minister may, after consultation with the Minister responsible for Alternative Energy, make regulations prescribing —

- (a) fees or charges payable in respect of any application certificate or other document required, or services rendered, pursuant to this section;
- (b) the forms or contents of applications, registers, orders or other documents required for the purposes of this section;
- (c) new renewable energy sources that may be used in the generation of electricity;
- (d) the purposes for which a renewable energy source may be used;
- (e) priority objects for the use of renewable energy sources;
- (f) the devices for use of renewable energy sources and their requirements;
- (g) the requirements for grid interconnection;
- (h) offences in relation to a contravention of or non-compliance with —
 - (i) a provision of this section including penalties, not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars, to be imposed for such offences, including a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars per day for a continuing offence;
 - (ii) a provision of a regulation made pursuant to this section including penalties, not exceeding five thousand dollars, to be imposed for such offences, including a fine not exceeding seven hundred and fifty dollars per day for a continuing offence;
- (i) the manner of carrying out all or any of the purposes of this section in accordance with the powers and duties conferred or imposed on the Minister under this Act.”.