



SENATE
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Introduced by Senator WIN GATCHALIAN

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL POWER TRANSMISSION GRID TO ENSURE THE QUALITY, RELIABILITY, AND SECURITY OF ELECTRICITY NATIONWIDE

1 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act
2 (EPIRA) provides that it is the policy of the State to ensure the quality, reliability,
3 security, and affordability of the supply of electric power¹ as well as protect the public
4 interest as it is affected by the services of electric utilities;²

5 WHEREAS, the public utility which presently operates and manages the grid is
6 the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) which acts as the system
7 operator of the nationwide electrical transmission system³ and is mandated by the
8 Constitution to have all its executive and managing officers to be Filipinos;⁴

9 WHEREAS, the NGCP as system operator is responsible for connection and
10 operational requirements for the introduction of variable energy in the grid,⁵
11 contracting reserves,⁶ the timely build of necessary transmission facilities based on
12 the Transmission Development Plan,⁷ and faithful operation and maintenance of the

¹ Sec. 2(d) of Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Approved: 8 June 2001)

² Sec. 2(f), Id.

³ Sec. 21 of Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Approved: 8 June 2001)

⁴ Sec. 11, Art. XII of the Constitution.

⁵ GCR 4.2.1.1 of the Philippine Grid Code (2016)

⁶ GO 6.2.3.1, 6.2.3.6, 6.2.3.7, of the Philippine Grid Code (2016)

⁷ Sec. 21 of Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Approved: 8 June 2001)

1 transmission and subtransmission facilities, and other assets which constitute the
2 national grid;⁸

3 WHEREAS, several hearings by the Senate Energy Committee and the Joint
4 Congressional Energy Commission show serious concerns pertaining to the operations
5 of NGCP which adversely affects the quality, reliability, and security of the supply of
6 electric power, such as failing to address intermittency caused by variable energy
7 resources in the grid thereby causing power outages,⁹ failing to fully contract
8 contingency reserves that can control and immediately address any reduction in supply
9 resulting to power outages,¹⁰ and failing to timely construct necessary transmission
10 facilities for additional power supply to be introduced to the grid in order to meet
11 increasing electricity demand;¹¹

12 WHEREAS, the 2020 budget deliberations for the Department of Energy (DOE)
13 and its attached agencies held on 19 November 2019 raised questions¹² on whether
14 or not NGCP complies with the Constitutional mandate for public utilities to have all
15 its executive and managing officers as Filipinos and that NGCP is controlled and
16 managed by Chinese engineers;¹³

17 WHEREAS, foreign intervention in the operations and management of the
18 national grid is inimical to the interests of the Philippines especially with the possible
19 use of technology to virtually attack the grid and thereby to cause power outages.¹⁴
20 Hence, other jurisdictions have crafted plans and policies,¹⁵ strategies,¹⁶ and studies¹⁷
21 for grid security and resiliency.

22 WHEREAS, it is necessary for Congress to be made aware of the operations of
23 the grid and to ensure accountability on the part of NGCP as it performs its duties and
24 functions as the system operator;

⁸ PST 3.5.1.1 of the Philippine Grid Code (2016)

⁹ Transcript of Stenographic Notes. Committee on Energy Joint with The Committee on Finance. On Senate Bill No. 1719. (19 November 2018) p. 37

¹⁰ Transcript of Stenographic Notes. Committee on Energy. On the Recent Spate of Power Outages in Luzon After the National Grid Corporation of The Philippines (NGCP) Placed Luzon Grid on "Red Alert" Due to the Simultaneous Shutdown of Five Power Plants. (25 April 2019) p. 12

¹¹ Transcript of Stenographic Notes. Joint Congressional Energy Commission. Solutions to Power Outages. (2 May 2019) p. 40

¹² Transcript of Stenographic Notes. Senate Plenary Hearing on the 2020 Budget. (19 November 2019) p. 231

¹³ Sec. 11, Art. XII of the Constitution

¹⁴ The New York Times. "Kremlin Warns of Cyberwar After Report of U.S. Hacking into Russian Power Grid" By Netchepurenko, I. (17 July 2019)

¹⁵ United States Office of the President. "National Electric Grid Security and Resilience Action Plan" (December 2016)

¹⁶ Cyber Security Agency of Singapore. "Singapore's Cybersecurity Strategy" (2016)

¹⁷ European Parliament Directorate General for Internal Policies. "Policy Department A: Economic and Scientific Policy on Cyber Security Strategy for the Energy Sector" (October 2016)

1 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the
2 Senate Committee on Energy to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
3 operations of the national power transmission grid to ensure the quality, reliability,
4 and security of electricity nationwide.

Adopted,



WIN GATCHALIAN