



*EXTRAORDINARY*

**OFFICIAL GAZETTE  
THE BAHAMAS**

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# ELECTRICITY (RENEWABLE ENERGY) REGULATIONS, 2015

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## MINISTRY OF WORKS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

S. I. No. 15 of 2015

### THE ELECTRICITY ACT (CHAPTER 194)

#### ELECTRICITY (RENEWABLE ENERGY) REGULATIONS, 2015

The Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 15A of the Electricity Act, and after consultation with the Minister responsible for Alternative Energy, makes the following Regulations —

**1. Citation.**

These Regulations may be cited as the Electricity (Renewable Energy) Regulations, 2015.

**2. Interpretation.**

In these Regulations —

“Act” means the Electricity Act (*Ch. 194*);

“Government” means the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

**3. Sources of renewable energy.**

- (1) Pursuant to section 15A of the Act and subject to these Regulations, electric energy may be generated from solar and wind renewable energy resources.
- (2) The Minister may approve the installation or operation of a generating station using renewable energy resources referred to in paragraph (1) in relation to —
  - (a) renewable energy generation facilities approved and advanced by the Government; and
  - (b) small-scale renewable technology in relation to the installation of solar water heaters and electricity generation units.

**4. Areas for the use of renewable energy sources.**

- (1) Solar renewable energy resources may be used for —
  - (a) receiving thermal power through the application of solar collecting panels or passive heating systems;

- (b) obtaining electric energy through the use of systems with direct power conversion methods including, but not limited to, photo-electrical, thermal-electrical and thermophotovoltaic methods;
  - (c) obtaining electrical, thermal power through the use of combined systems approved by the Minister in consultation with the Corporation.
- (2) Wind renewable energy resources may be used for obtaining —
- (a) electric power applying wind-electric devices;
  - (b) mechanical power applying wind-mechanical and wind-hydrodynamic devices.

**5. Priority objects for the use of renewable energy sources.**

Subject to the approval of the Minister, the use of renewable energy sources may be permitted in —

- (a) areas where due to low population density construction of traditional power plants and high voltage power transmission lines is not profitable or impractical;
- (b) areas where frequent power outages are caused due to unsatisfactory state of power networks or capacity/power deficit, which cause significant economic losses and negative social impact;
- (c) such public or private buildings or spaces as the Minister may determine from time to time.

**6. Devices for the use of renewable energy sources and requirements.**

- (1) The Minister shall authorize the capacity of devices for the use of renewable energy sources in the production, conversion, accumulation, and transmission of power generated from such renewable energy sources.
- (2) An owner or operator may, in accordance with the relevant standards and guidelines, re-equip the owner's fabrication facility, or a complex of fabrication facilities, for its operation based on the renewable energy sources.
- (3) The conversion of fabrication facilities, or a complex of fabrication facilities, with the purpose of using renewable energy sources shall be confirmed by the owner in accordance with the documents required and issued by the Minister.
- (4) The operational requirements of devices for the use of renewable energy sources include compliance with —
  - (a) standards and guidelines issued by the Minister responsible for Alternative Energy;

- (a) technical guidelines and standards issued by the Corporation; and
  - (b) international standards for the use of renewable energy sources that are recognized by the Government.
- (5) Requirements in the production and operation of devices for the use of renewable energy sources include adherence to conditions which ensure the prevention of harm to individuals and legal entities, and the environment.

**7. Application for approval and registration.**

- (1) No person shall install or operate a generating station using a source of renewable energy without prior approval and registration by the Minister.
- (2) A person desiring to install or operate a renewable energy generating station shall apply in writing to the Minister for approval and registration.
- (3) An application pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be —
- (a) submitted to the Minister in writing, in duplicate, in the form and manner required by the Minister;
  - (b) contain such information as the Minister may require;
  - (c) accompanied by such documents and such fee, if any, as the Minister may require; and
  - (d) made in respect of a generating station, or proposed generating station, that complies with all relevant standards and guidelines.
- (4) A duplicate copy of the application referred to in paragraph (3) shall be forwarded by the Minister to the Minister responsible for Alternative Energy.
- (5) The owner or operator of a renewable energy generating station, installed or in operation on the date the Act comes into force, who applies for approval and registration shall ensure —
- (a) the system complies with all relevant standards and guidelines; and
  - (b) the configuration of the system is in accordance with the Act and these Regulations.

**8. Approval and refusal of applications.**

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Minister shall upon receipt of an application made in accordance with regulation 7 approve the application and register the renewable energy generating station and the owner or operator thereof.
- (2) The Minister may, in the Minister's discretion, refuse an application pursuant to regulation 7 where the generating station was previously registered and, subsequently, disconnected from the electrical grid and de-registered.

**9. Allocation of registration numbers.**

The Minister shall, where the Minister approves an application and registers a renewable energy generating station —

- (a) allocate to the owner or operator a unique registration number;
- (b) issue to the owner or operator a renewable energy certificate in accordance with regulation 10; and
- (c) enter into a grid interconnection agreement with the owner or operator and the Corporation.

**10. Types of renewable energy certificates.**

- (1) The Minister may issue a renewable energy certificate for —
  - (a) renewable energy generation facilities approved and advanced by the Government of The Bahamas; or
  - (b) small-scale renewable technology in relation to the installation of solar water heaters and electricity generation units.
- (2) A renewable energy certificate shall be —
  - (a) issued in such form as the Minister may from time to time determine;
  - (b) issued in the name of the applicant;
  - (b) contain the unique registration number allocated and the authorized capacity of the devices for use of renewable energy sources from which power is to be generated.

**11. Disconnection from the electrical grid.**

The Minister may from time to time direct the Corporation to disconnect a renewable energy generating station from the electrical grid, subject to such terms and conditions for re-entry if any, as the Minister deems fit.

**12. Offences.**

A person who contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of —

- (a) section 15A of the Act; or
- (b) these Regulations,

commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction —

- (i) for an offence under paragraph (a), to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding one thousand dollars for each day that the offence continues; and
- (ii) for an offence under paragraph (b), to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars and, in the case of a continuing offence,

to a further fine not exceeding seven hundred and fifty dollars for each day that the offence continues.

**Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015.**

**Signed**  
**PHILIP E. BRAVE DAVIS**  
**Minister responsible for relations with the Corporation**