



## **ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS**

### **CHAPTER 16.04**

### **PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT**

#### **Revised Edition**

showing the law as at 31 December 2002

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**CHAPTER 16.04**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT**

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES.

PART I  
PRELIMINARY

**Short title.**

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Utilities Act.

**Interpretation.**

2. For the purposes of this Act—

“Commission” means the Public Utilities Commission constituted under this Act;

“fair value rate base” means the net current value of the fixed assets employed in the public service;

“public utility” means any person or company (including the lessee, trustee, receiver or liquidator of such person or company) who owns or operates equipment or facilities for—

- (a) the production, generation, storage, transmission, sale, delivery, furnishing or supplying, directly or indirectly to or for the public, of electricity;
- (b) the conveyance or transmission of messages or communications by telephone,

but shall not include any person or company not otherwise a public utility who furnishes the service or commodity only to himself or herself, his or her employees or tenants, when such service or commodity is not resold to or used by others;

“rate” includes every rate, fare, toll, charge, rental or other compensation whatsoever of any public utility, and every rule, regulation, practice, measurement, classification or contract of the public utility relating thereto;

“service” includes the accommodation afforded consumers, and any product or commodity furnished or supplied by a public utility, and the plant, equipment, apparatus, appliances, property and facilities employed by or in connection with any public utility in performing any service or in furnishing or supplying any product or commodity and devoted to the purposes in which the public utility is engaged and to the use and accommodation of the public;

“unjust” and “unreasonable” as applied to rates shall be construed to include, respectively, injustice and unreasonableness, whether arising from the fact that rates are excessive as being more than a fair and reasonable charge for service of the nature and quality furnished by the public utility, or from the fact that rates are insufficient to yield fair compensation for the service rendered or arising in any other manner.

## PART II

## APPOINTMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**Constitution of the Commission.**

3. (1) There shall be a Commission, to be called “the Public Utilities Commission” to be comprised of a Chartered Engineer, a Chartered or Certified Accountant, an Economist, a Barrister and Solicitor and one lay person to be appointed by the Minister, one of whom shall be appointed as Chairperson and shall be entitled to hold the office of Chairperson as long as he or she continues as a member of the Commission.

(2) In the absence of the Chairperson, or in case of his or her inability to act, or if there is a vacancy in the office, any other member may act as Chairperson.

(3) Whenever it appears that a member has acted for and in place of the Chairperson, it shall be conclusively presumed that he or she so acted for one of the reasons mentioned in subsection (2).

(4) Vacancies caused by death, resignation or otherwise may be filled by the Minister.

(5) Three members shall constitute a quorum.

**Constitution of the panel.**

4. (1) There shall be constituted a panel (hereinafter referred to as “the public utilities panel”) consisting of not more than five persons to be nominated by the Minister after consultation with such public utilities as he or she shall see fit.

(2) Whenever, for the purposes of any particular complaint, hearing or other proceeding of the Commission, the Commission, either upon application by any of the parties or otherwise, so requests or the Minister thinks it expedient, there shall be added to the Commission two assessors nominated by the Minister, one selected from the public utilities panel and the other selected to represent the users of the public utility concerned.

(3) In selecting such assessors, regard shall be had to the particular class of case or proceeding to be heard so that, as nearly as the circumstances may permit, the persons selected as assessors shall be conversant with and have knowledge of the technicalities that may arise in considering such particular complaint, hearing or other proceeding.

(4) Any assessor so appointed shall, for the purposes of such complaint, hearing or other proceeding in respect of which he or she may be so appointed, and subject to the provisions of this Act and of any regulations, exercise all the powers and functions of a member of the Commission except that the decision of the Commission shall be the decision of the members only excluding any such assessor, or of a majority of such members as the case may be.

**Common seal.**

5. The Commission shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and such seal shall be judicially noticed.

**Appointment**

6. The members of the Commission shall hold office for such period not exceeding three years as may be specified in the instrument of appointment:

Provided that—

- (a) a member may at any time by notice in writing to the Minister resign his or her office;
- (b) the Minister may declare the office of any member vacant on the ground that he or she is from any just cause unfit to continue in office.

#### **Remuneration.**

7. The members of the Commission and any assessors nominated pursuant to subsection (2) of section 4 shall receive such remuneration as the Minister shall determine.

#### **Indisposition.**

8. (1) Where in the opinion of the Minister a member of the Commission is interested in any matter before the Commission, or a member is unable to act by reason of illness, absence or other cause, the Minister may appoint a person to act as a member in his or her stead for the occasion or until the termination of the disability.

(2) The Minister may fix the remuneration of the person appointed.

(3) Any person so appointed may complete any unfinished business of the Commission in which he or she had taken part, even if the member in whose place he or she is acting has become able to act.

#### **Appointment of experts.**

9. The Commission may, from time to time, with the approval of the Minister, appoint or engage experts or persons having technical or special knowledge necessary for the purpose of assisting the Commission to carry out the objectives of this Act.

#### **Appointment of officers.**

10. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Commission may appoint and employ at such, remuneration and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, such officers and servants as it deems necessary.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1)—

- (a) no salary in excess of such sum as the Minister may determine and notify in writing to the Commission may be assigned to any post;
- (b) no appointment whether temporary or permanent may be made to any post to which a salary is assigned by the Minister under paragraph (a) without the prior approval of the Minister; and
- (c) no person may be dismissed from any post to which this subsection refers, without the prior approval of the Minister.

#### **Utilisation of public officers.**

11. For the purpose of any inquiry or examination conducted by it or in the performance of any of the other duties assigned to it by this Act, the Commission may, with the consent of the Governor-General, utilise the services of any public officer or other employee of the Crown.

**Expenses of Commission.**

12. (1) Each year the expenses of the Commission for the preceding calendar year, including the remuneration of the members thereof and of any assessors nominated pursuant to subsection (2) of section 4, which are to be assessed upon and borne by the several utilities carrying on business during the whole or any part of the preceding calendar year, shall be calculated and settled by the Commission.

(2) On or before the first day of July in each year the Commission shall assess upon each of such public utilities its just share of such expenses in proportion to its gross earnings for such preceding calendar year or part thereof, as the case may be.

(3) The amount assessed under subsection (2) on a public utility shall be paid by such public utility within one month after it has been notified by the Commission of such amount and, in default of payment, the Commission may sue for and recover the same in any court.

(4) The sum so assessed on a public utility shall when paid be treated as and included in the general expenses of the public utility in the year in which it is paid.

**Advances by Accountant-General.**

13. (1) The Accountant-General may pay and advance annually from moneys voted for the purpose by Parliament such sums as may be required to meet the annual expenses of the Commission.

(2) Any such advances shall be made on such terms and be subject to such conditions as may be determined by the Minister responsible for finance.

**No member of Commission shall hold share, etc.**

14. No member, or officer of the Commission, shall directly or indirectly—

- (a) hold, acquire or become interested in any share, stock, debenture or other security of any public utility;
- (b) have any interest in any contract or agreement for the construction of any works or the furnishing of any service for or by any public utility;
- (c) have any interest in any device, appliance, machine, article, patent or patented process, or any part thereof which is required or used by any public utility for the purpose of its equipment or service:

Provided that no member or officer of the Commission shall be deemed to have any interest in a public utility by reason of the fact that he or she is the user or subscriber of a telephone, or the user or purchaser for personal or domestic purposes of electric current from any public utility.

**PART III****RATES AND RATE-MAKING****Rates to be fair and reasonable.**

15. (1) Every rate made, demanded or received by any public utility shall be fair and reasonable and in conformity with such regulations as the Commission may from time to time prescribe, and in fixing such rates for any period, the Commission shall

determine the revenue requirements of the utility for the period in accordance with the following rate-making formula, viz:

Revenue required (Cost of Service) shall be equal to the sum of—

- (a) all allowable operating expenses, including fuel expenses, other operating expenses, maintenance expenses, depreciation and amortisation expenses, income taxes, taxes other than on income; and
- (b) an amount to provide a reasonable rate of return to cover all interest expenses, an amount to provide a dividend to the preference and ordinary shareholder and an amount to provide for a reasonable surplus for reinvestment in the utility's operations, such rate of return to be calculated on the fair value rate base.

(2) The structure of the tariffs charged to each consumer group shall, wherever possible, be related to the demand characteristics of each consumer group except that the utility shall be entitled to charge a lifeline tariff for domestic consumers an average .50KWh of electricity each month over the preceding 12 month period.

**Public utility to file tariff.**

**16.** (1) Every public utility shall file with the Commission, within such time and in such form as the Commission may prescribe, tariffs showing all rates established by it and shall keep copies of such tariffs open to public inspection.

(2) The rates specified in such tariffs shall be the authorised rates of such public utility until changed as provided in this Act.

**No non-tariff rates.**

**17.** No public utility shall, directly or indirectly, demand or receive a greater or less rate for any service rendered than that specified in the tariffs of such public utility applicable thereto and filed in the manner prescribed in this Act.

**No preferential rates.**

**18.** No public utility shall supply or furnish to any person any service at rates which are unduly preferential or discriminatory, except a rate for its employees, pensioners or the Government.

**No change in rate except by notice.**

**19.** (1) Unless the Commission otherwise orders, no public utility shall make any change in any existing and duly established rate, except after sixty days' notice to the Commission, which notice shall state the changes proposed to be made in the rates then in force and the time when the changed rates are to take effect.

(2) Whenever there is filed with the Commission by any public utility any tariff stating a new rate, the Commission shall, either upon complaint or upon its own motion, enter upon a public hearing to determine whether such rate is fair and reasonable and pending such hearing and the decision thereon, the Commission upon delivering to the public utility affected thereby a statement in writing of its reasons therefor, may, at any time before it becomes effective, suspend the operation of such rate for a period not longer than four months from the time such rate would otherwise become effective.

(3) Where the operation of a new rate is suspended under subsection (2), the rate in force when the tariff stating the new rate was filed shall continue in force

during the period of suspension, unless the Commission establish a temporary rate as authorised in section 21.

#### **Procedure where rates unfair.**

**20.** (1) Whenever the Commission, after a hearing upon its own motion or upon complaint, finds that the existing rates of any public utility for any service are unfair or unreasonable or contrary to law, the Commission shall determine the fair and reasonable rates (including maximum or minimum rates) to be thereafter observed and shall fix the same by order to be served on the public utility and such rates shall constitute the legal rates of the public utility until changed as provided in this Act.

(2) Where a public utility does not itself produce or generate that which it distributes, transmits or supplies to the public but obtains the same from another source, the Commission shall have the power and authority to investigate the cost of such production or generation in any investigation of the reasonableness of the rates of such public utility.

#### **Temporary rates.**

**21.** (1) The Commission may, in any proceeding involving the rates of a public utility brought either upon its own motion or upon complaint, if it is of the opinion that the public interest so requires, immediately fix, determine and prescribe temporary rates to be charged by such public utility pending the final determination of such rate inquiry.

(2) Whenever the Commission, upon examination of any annual or other report or of any papers, records, books or documents or of the property of any public utility, is of the opinion that any rates of such public utility are producing a return in excess of a fair return upon the fair value of the property of such public utility, used and useful in its public service, the Commission may, by order, prescribe for a trial period not exceeding six months such temporary rates to be observed by such public utility as, in the opinion of the Commission, will produce a fair return upon such fair value, and the rates so prescribed shall become effective upon the date specified in the order of the Commission and so shall become permanent at the end of such trial period, unless at any time during such trial period the public utility involved complains to the Commission that the rates so prescribed are unfair and unreasonable.

(3) Temporary rates so fixed, determined and prescribed under this section shall be effective until the final determination of the rate inquiry, unless terminated sooner by the Commission.

(4) Where the rates as finally determined are in excess of the rates existing prior to the filing with the Commission by a public utility of a tariff stating a new rate under subsection (2) of section 19 or of the rates prescribed in such temporary order, then the public utility shall be permitted to amortise and recover, by means of a temporary increase in the rates finally determined, the sum which represents the difference between the gross income actually received by the public utility during the period commencing with the date on which under the notice given to the Commission the new rate was to have come into effect and ending on the date on which the rate finally determined becomes effective and the gross income which would have been received during the same period if the rates finally determined had been in effect.

#### **Burden of proof upon public utility.**

**22.** In any proceeding upon the motion of the Commission involving any proposed or existing rate of any public utility, or in any proceeding upon complaint involving

any proposed increase in rates, the burden of proof to show that the rate involved is fair and reasonable shall be upon the public utility.

#### PART IV

#### SERVICE AND FACILITIES

##### **Condition of property and equipment.**

**23.** Every public utility shall maintain its property and equipment in such condition as to enable it to provide, and shall provide, service to the public in all respects safe, adequate, efficient and reasonable and shall make all such repairs, changes, alterations, substitutions, extensions and improvements in or to such service as shall be necessary or proper for the accommodation and convenience of the public.

##### **Inadequate service of facilities.**

**24.** Where the Commission, after a hearing upon its own motion or upon complaint, finds that the service or facilities of any public utility are unsafe, inadequate, or unreasonable or unreasonably discriminatory, the Commission shall determine and prescribe the adequate reasonable service and facilities to be provided, including all such repairs, changes, alterations, extensions, substitutions or improvements and facilities as shall be reasonably necessary and proper for the accommodation and convenience of the public and shall fix the same by its order.

##### **Extension of existing service.**

**25.** (1) Where the Commission, after a hearing upon its own motion or upon complaint, finds that an extension by any public utility of its existing service would in the opinion of the Commission provide sufficient business to justify the construction and maintenance of such extension, the Commission may order the public utility to make such extension to its service as the Commission may deem reasonable and expedient.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "sufficient business" means such business as will yield such gross revenue within the extended area of supply at the rates for the time being authorised as will produce a sum not less than the cost of maintenance and depreciation and will produce a reasonable return on the capital outlay in respect of such extension.

##### **No ceasing from operations.**

**26.** No public utility shall cease from its operations or any part of them without first obtaining the permission of the Commission.

##### **Regulations concerning agreements.**

**27.** The Commission may make regulations prescribing the conditions to be contained in and to become part of all agreements entered into by public utilities in respect of any class of service.

PART V  
SECURITIES

**Issue of stocks or shares.**

**28.** (1) No public utility shall issue any stocks or shares or any debentures or other evidence of indebtedness, payable in more than one year from the date thereof, unless it has first obtained the approval of the Commission to the proposed issue.

(2) The Commission may grant its approval of the proposed issue in the amount applied for or in any lesser amount and subject to such conditions as it may deem reasonable and necessary to impose.

PART VI  
PROCEDURE BEFORE THE COMMISSION

**Complaints.**

**29.** (1) The Commission, or any person or company having an interest in the subject-matter, or any public utility concerned, may complain, in writing, setting forth any act or thing done or omitted to be done by any public utility in breach, or alleged breach, of any law which the Commission has jurisdiction to administer or of any regulation or order of the Commission.

(2) The Commission may prescribe the form of the complaint to be filed under this section.

(3) The Commission may require any person or company or public utility making any complaint to give security for the costs of the hearing and investigation of the said complaint.

**Copy of complaint to be served.**

**30.** Upon the filing of a complaint against any person or company, the Commission shall cause a copy thereof to be served upon such person or company, accompanied by a notice from the Commission requiring such person or company to satisfy the complaint or to answer the same in writing, within such reasonable time as may be specified by the Commission in such notice.

**Dismissal of complaint.**

**31.** (1) Where any person or company, within the time specified by the Commission, satisfies the complaint, the Commission by its order shall dismiss the complaint.

(2) Where such person or company does not satisfy the complaint within the time specified and it appears to the Commission from a consideration of the complaint and answer, or otherwise, that reasonable ground exists for investigating such complaint, it shall be the duty of the Commission to fix a time and place for a hearing:

Provided that the Commission may dismiss any complaint without a hearing if, in the opinion of the Commission, a hearing is not necessary in the public interest.

**Public hearings.**

32. All hearings before the Commission shall be public and the parties shall be entitled to be heard in person or by counsel.

**Order of Commission.**

33. (1) After the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission shall make an order which shall state a time within which the order is to be complied with.

(2) A certified copy of such order shall be served upon the person or company against whom it is made, and notice thereof shall be given to the other parties to the proceedings.

**Commission may summon witnesses, etc.**

34. The Commission shall have power to subpoena witnesses, to administer oaths, to examine witnesses, to compel the production of such books, records, papers and documents as it may deem necessary or proper for any proceedings, investigation or hearing held by it, and to do all necessary and proper acts in the lawful exercise of its powers or the performance of the duties.

**Notice.**

35. Notice of all hearings, investigations and proceedings before the Commission shall be given in such manner as the Commission may prescribe by order.

## PART VII

## ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS

**Enforcement of order.**

36. (1) Where an order made by the Commission has not been complied with within the time stated for compliance therein, the Commission may take such steps and employ such persons as may be necessary for the enforcement of such order, and for that purpose may forcibly or otherwise enter upon, seize and take possession of the whole or any part of the movable or immovable property of any public utility affected by such order, together with the books, documents and offices of the company and may until the order has been enforced assume and take over the management of the business of the company for and in the interests of its shareholders and creditors and of the public; and for such time as the Commission continues to manage or direct the management of the company, the Commission may exercise all or any of the powers, duties, rights and functions of the directors and officers of the company in all respects, including the employment and dismissal of officers and servants of the company:

Provided always that the Commission shall not remain in possession of the property or any part thereof for a period in excess of six months without proceeding under section 37.

(2) Upon the Commission so taking possession of the property and business of the public utility, every officer and employee of the company shall obey the orders of the Commission and of any person placed by the Commission's authority in the management of any department of the company's undertaking or service.

(3) The Commission, upon so taking possession of the property and business of a public utility, may determine, receive and pay out all moneys due to or owing by the company, and give cheques, acquittances and receipts for moneys to the same extent and with like effect as the proper officers of the company could do if no possession had been taken by the Commission.

(4) The costs incurred in any proceedings taken by the Commission under this section shall be in the discretion of the Commission and the Commission may order by whom and in what amount or proportion they shall be paid.

#### **Failure to comply with order.**

**37.** (1) Where a public utility has failed to comply with an order made by the Commission within the time for compliance stated therein, and if the Commission is of the opinion that no effectual means exist of compelling the public utility to comply with the order, the Commission shall transmit to the Minister a certificate signed by the Chairperson and the secretary setting forth the nature of the order and the default of the public utility in respect thereof and such certificate shall be published in the *Gazette* and at least one weekly newspaper.

(2) Upon publication of the certificate the Commission may apply to the High Court to have the public utility wound up and the High Court shall order the winding-up of the said public utility.

### PART VIII

#### OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

#### **Failure to obey order.**

**38.** (1) Every public utility which fails or refuses to obey an order of the Commission made under this Act shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of ten thousand dollars.

(2) Whenever it is proved that a public utility has failed to obey any order of the Commission made under this Act, every director and manager of such company shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of one thousand dollars unless he or she proves that, according to his or her position and authority, he or she took all necessary and proper means in his or her power to obey and carry out and secure obedience to the order of the Commission and that he or she was not at fault for the failure to obey the order.

#### **Failure to prepare return, etc.**

**39.** Every public utility which fails to prepare and furnish to the Commission within the time and in the manner and form and with such particulars and verifications as by or under this Act are required—

- (a) any return of information required in the form of return furnished to the Commission;
- (b) any answer to any question submitted by the Commission; or
- (c) any information required by the Commission under this Act,

shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of ten thousand dollars.

**False returns.**

40. Every public utility which makes any return or furnishes any information to the Commission which is false in any particular shall be liable on summary conviction, to a fine of ten thousand dollars.

**Refusal to comply with notice.**

41. Where, by notice served on any officer, employee or agent he or she wilfully refuses or fails to furnish the information or return to the best of his or her knowledge, or means of knowledge, in the manner directed by the Commission within the time stated in the notice, the officer, employee or agent so in default shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of one thousand dollars.

**Obstructing member, etc.**

42. Every person who obstructs or interferes with any member of the Commission, officer or person in the exercise of the rights conferred or duties imposed by or under this Act shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of one thousand dollars.

## PART IX

## REVIEW AND APPEAL

**Commission may review order.**

43. The Commission may review, vary and rescind any decision or order made by it and where under this Act a hearing is required before any decision or order is made, such decision or order shall not be altered, suspended or revoked without a hearing.

**Appeal.**

44. (1) An appeal shall lie on a question of law to a Judge of the High Court from a decision or order of the Commission.

(2) The appellant shall give notice of appeal, within fourteen days of the decision or order of the Commission, to the Commission and to the adverse party interested and the parties shall be entitled to be represented by counsel upon the hearing of the appeal.

(3) The Chief Justice may make rules regulating the practice and procedure for hearing of appeals under this Act.

(4) All costs incidental to the hearing of an appeal shall be defrayed by the parties to the appeal in such manner and proportions as the Court determines.

(5) Costs shall be in accordance with the scale of fees in force in respect of civil proceedings in the High Court, and all costs shall be taxed and recovered in the same manner as costs are taxed and recovered in the Court.

**Appeal not automatic suspension.**

45. No appeal shall of itself stay or suspend the operation of any decision or order of the Commission but the Court may stay or suspend, in whole or in part, the operation of the decision or order of the Commission during the pendency of the appeal, upon such terms as the Court may think fit.

**Decision of court.**

46. On the hearing of an appeal and the determination of the question involved in the appeal, the Court shall certify its decision to the Commission and the Commission shall make an order in accordance with that decision.

**Case-stated.**

47. (1) The Commission may, upon the application of any party or of its own motion, state a case in writing for the opinion of the Court upon any question which in the opinion of the Commission is a question of law.

(2) The Court shall hear and determine all questions of law arising in any case stated by the Commission and shall remit the matter to the Commission with the opinion of the Court thereon, which opinion shall be binding on the Commission and on all parties.

## PART X

## MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**Powers of Commission.**

48. The powers vested in the Commission by this Act shall apply notwithstanding that the subject-matter in respect of which the powers are exercisable is the subject-matter of any Act or agreement and shall apply in respect of rates and service, whether fixed by or the subject of any Act or agreement or otherwise and, where the rates and service are fixed by or are the subject of an agreement, shall apply whether the agreement is incorporated in or ratified or made binding by any general or special Act or otherwise.

**Use of Public utility conduits, etc.**

49. Whenever the Commission, after inquiry, finds that public convenience or necessity require the use by one public utility of the conduits, subways, poles, wires or other equipment belonging to another public utility, and that such use will not prevent the owner or other users thereof from performing their duties or result in any substantial detriment to the service and if the public utilities fail to agree on such use or conditions or compensation therefor, the Commission may make such order as it deems reasonable directing that the use or joint use of the conduits, subways, poles, wires or other equipment be permitted and prescribing the conditions to be observed and the compensation to be paid in respect of the use so permitted.

**Keeping of books.**

50. The Commission may, by order, require every public utility—

- (a) to keep such books, records and accounts of the conduct of its business as the Commission may prescribe;
- (b) to furnish periodically, and at such other time as the Commission may require, a detailed report of finances and operations in such form and containing such particulars and verified in such manner as the Commission may require.

**Information required by Commission.**

**51.** (1) Every public utility shall furnish to the Commission all information required by it and shall make specific answers to all questions submitted by the Commission.

(2) Whenever required by the Commission, every public utility shall deliver to the Commission all contracts, reports of engineers, documents, books, accounts, papers and records in the possession or control of the company in any way relating to its property or service or affecting its business, or verified copies of the same.

**Value of property of public utility.**

**52.** (1) The Commission may by appraisal from time to time ascertain the value of the property of any public utility and may inquire into every fact which in its judgment has any bearing on that value, including the amount of money actually and reasonably expended in the undertaking in order to furnish service reasonably adequate to the requirements or public served by the company.

(2) All expenses in connection with any appraisal ordered by the Commission, including all expenses incurred in connection therewith by the public utility whose property is the subject of such appraisal, may when the Commission so directs be charged to capital account and added to the rate base of the public utility.

**Report to Minister.**

**53.** (1) The Commission shall, on or before to the first day of March in each year, make to the Minister a report for the preceding calendar year showing briefly—

- (a) all applications and complaints to the Commission under this Act, and summaries of the findings of the Commission thereon;
- (b) summaries of the findings of the Commission in regard to any matter respecting which the Commission has acted of its own motion;
- (c) such other matters as appear to the Commission to be of public interest in connection with the public utilities subject to this Act;
- (d) such matters as the Minister directs.

(2) The report shall be laid before the National Assembly and a copy thereof shall be issued to each member of the National Assembly.

**Certified true copy of rule.**

**54.** A copy of any rule, regulation, order or other document in the custody of the secretary of the Commission, certified by the secretary to be a true copy and sealed with the seal of the Commission, shall be evidence of the rule, regulation, order or document without proof of the signature of the secretary.

**Costs of proceedings.**

**55.** (1) The costs of and incidental to any proceedings before the Commission shall be in the discretion of the Commission and may be fixed at a sum certain or may be taxed.

(2) The Commission may prescribe a scale under which costs shall be taxed and may order by whom the costs in any proceedings are to be taxed.

**Regulations.**

**56.** (1) The Commission may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations—

- (a) prescribing fees to be paid in respect of any matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission; and
- (b) for giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2) Any regulations made under subsection (1) shall be subject to negative Resolution.

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