

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
APPLICATION FOR THE
APPROVAL OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
VISAYAS-MINDANAO
INTERCONNECTION
PROJECT, WITH PRAYER
FOR PROVISIONAL
AUTHORITY,**

ERC CASE NO. 2017-034 RC

**NATIONAL GRID
CORPORATION OF THE
PHILIPPINES (NGCP),
Applicant.**

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By: *[Signature]*

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NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE
NCCP DIVISION
RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

ORDER

On 22 April 2017, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) filed an *Application* seeking the Commission's approval of its Visayas – Mindanao interconnection project, including therein a prayer for provisional authority.

In the said *Application*, Applicant alleged the following:

THE APPLICANT

1. NGCP is a corporation created and existing under the laws of the Philippines, with principal office address at NGCP Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. It is the concessionaire which assumed the power transmission functions of the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) pursuant to Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA). NGCP was also granted by Congress the franchise under R.A. No. 9511 to operate, manage, and maintain the nationwide transmission system of the Republic of the Philippines.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

2. One of NGCP's functions and responsibilities enumerated in Section 9 of the EPIRA is to *improve and expand its transmission facilities, consistent with the Philippine Grid Code and the Transmission Development Plan (TDP), to adequately*

serve generation companies, distribution utilities and suppliers requiring transmission service and/or ancillary services through the transmission system: Provided, That NGCP shall submit any plan for expansion or improvement of its facilities for approval by the Energy Regulatory Commission. Also, pursuant to its franchise, NGCP is authorized to construct, install, finance, manage, improve, expand, operate, maintain, rehabilitate, repair and refurbish the present nationwide transmission system.

3. Pursuant thereto, on 13 November 2015, NGCP filed an Application before the Honorable Commission, docketed as ERC Case No. 2015-201RC, seeking authority to conduct a desktop study and hydrographic survey for the Visayas-Mindanao Interconnection Project via the western route. With the provisional authority issued by the Honorable Commission through its Order dated 21 January 2016, NGCP conducted the survey that confirmed a feasible interconnection route.

4. To finally complete the interconnection of Visayas and Mindanao Grids that: *(i) will allow excess generation in one grid to be exported to another; (ii) promote competition in the electricity market nationwide through the electricity market; and (iii) aid the Visayas Grid during peak intervals when the solar plants are not delivering power*, NGCP seeks the immediate approval of this application to implement the Visayas-Mindanao Interconnection Project (VMIP).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

5. The interconnection of the Visayas and Mindanao Grids was first conceptualized in the early 1980s through the study conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Its primary purpose is to ensure reliable power supply among the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids through exporting excess power to areas with deficiency; and maximize the potential generating production capacity of the three grids.

6. In March 2011, the Department of Energy directed NGCP to lead the conduct of the assessment of the interconnection of the Visayas and Mindanao Grids. In 2015, NGCP considered an interconnection through the western route via *Zamboanga del Norte to Cebu Island or to Negros Island*.

7. The result of the survey shows a favorable route along the *Zamboanga del Norte to Cebu Island* route because it has low to moderate gradients and mild seawater current. A comprehensive detail of the Visayas-Mindanao Interconnection Project is discussed in the Detailed Project Discussion attached as Annex "A."

8. In addition to the survey, NGCP also examined the supply outlook to determine the capacity that can be exported by the Luzon and Mindanao grids to ease the power deficiency in Visayas. The results are as follows:

a. the Luzon Grid will have generation surplus with the committed power plants until 2023 and with the indicative power plants beyond 2030;

b. the Visayas Grid will have a generation deficiency during times where Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) and diesel plants are not generating;

c. the Mindanao Grid will have excess generation even during dry season until 2030 with the indicative plants.

9. The deficiency of capacity in Visayas may be supplied by importing power from Luzon and Mindanao. The following are the scenarios simulated until 2025, consistent with the planning horizon of the Transmission Development Plan:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Visayas Deficiency	(206)	(278)	(352)	(430)	(510)	(615)
Luzon Maximum Export	100	105	115	140	160	180
Supply Shortfall / Potential Import from Mindanao	106	173	237	290	350	435

Note: All values in the above table are in MW unit.

10. Based on the simulation results, a maximum of 435 MW may be drawn from Mindanao to supply the deficiency in Visayas. Hence, a 450 MW Visayas - Mindanao interconnection capacity is required to provide sufficient supply to Visayas within the planning horizon.

11. With this favorable outcome of the desktop study and hydrographic survey, NGCP evaluated several channels for the interconnection wherein the Cebu (Magdugo Substation) and Zamboanga del Sur (Aurora Substation) with converter stations located in Sibonga, Cebu (Visayas side) and Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur (Mindanao side) option has emerged as the most technically feasible option. Also, the VMIP includes a provision for expansion of up to 900 MW to ensure that its ultimate capacity can be accommodated and integrated with the long term vision for the unification of the Philippine Grid.

THE PROJECT

12. The Project involves the interconnection of Visayas and Mindanao grids via Cebu and Zamboanga. The converter stations in Visayas and Mindanao will be located in Sibonga, Cebu and Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur, respectively. The High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) system will be linked to the existing Alternating Current (AC) system via Magdugo Substation (SS) in Visayas and direct connection to the New Aurora SS in Mindanao.

13. The Project will have the following major project components:

- a. converter stations (CS), including associated electrode stations and electrode lines in Sibonga, Cebu and Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur;
- b. cable terminal stations (CTS) in Santander, Cebu and Dapitan, Zamboanga Del Norte;
- c. expansions in Magdugo SS and New Aurora SS;
- d. 92-kilometer ± 350 kV HVDC submarine cable between Santander CTS and Dapitan CTS;
- e. 50-kilometer ± 350 kV HVDC Over Head Transmission Line (OHTL) from Santander CTS to Sibonga CS/SS;
- f. 135-kilometer ± 350 kV HVDC OHTL from Dapitan CTS to New Aurora CS/SS; and
- g. new substation in Umapad, Cebu including associated transmission line extensions from Cebu- Lapu Lapu transmission lines;

14. The estimated cost of the project is Fifty One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety six and 70/100 Million Pesos (PhP51,696.70Mn) and is estimated to be completed in forty six (46) months.

Allegations in Support of the Prayer for Provisional Approval

15. The Project is aimed to support the government's undertaking to establish the unified electricity market in the country.

16. Without the link between the Visayas and Mindanao Grids, the potential energy resources optimization will not be realized and there will be no flexibility in sharing of reserve capacity between major grids. With the establishment of the unified electricity market, the implementation of Project would create a more liberalized, robust, and competitive market for the country.

17. Both the installed capacity mix and energy mix of each major grid as shown in the attachments of the Detailed Project Description, respectively, shows that: Luzon is a coal and natural gas dependent grid; Visayas is a coal and renewable energy dependent grid; while Mindanao is a coal and hydro dependent grid. The differences in the installed capacity mix and in the gross generation mix would provide optimization opportunities in the electricity market in supplying the loads.

18. A copy of the Judicial Affidavit of Engr. Fernando S. Javier, Head of the Mindanao System Planning Division, Transmission Planning Department of NGCP, is hereto attached as Annex "B."

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, NGCP most respectfully prays that this Honorable Commission:

ERC CASE NO. 2017-034 RC
ORDER/ 5 JUNE 2017
PAGE 5 OF 8

1. Immediately ISSUE an Order provisionally authorizing the implementation of the Visayas-Mindanao Interconnection Project; and

2. APPROVE, after notice and hearing, the Application for the implementation of the Visayas-Mindanao Interconnection Project.

NGCP prays for other equitable relief.

Finding the said *Application* sufficient in substance with the required fees having been paid, the same is hereby set for hearing on the following dates:

DATE AND TIME	VENUE	PURPOSE
7 July 2017 1:00 P.M.	ERC Visayas Field Office, St. Mary's Drive, Banilad, Cebu City	Determination of compliance with jurisdictional requirements and expository presentation.
13 July 2017 1:00 P.M.	ERC Mindanao Field Office Mintrade Bldg., Monteverde Avenue corner Sales Street, Davao City	Expository presentation.
20 July 2017 1:00 P.M.	ERC Hearing Room, 15 th Floor, Pacific Center, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City	Expository presentation, Pre-trial Conference, and presentation of evidence.

Accordingly, Applicant is hereby directed to:

- 1) Cause the publication of the attached Notice of Public Hearing in two (2) newspapers of nationwide circulation in the Philippines at their own expense, twice (2x) within two (2) successive weeks, the dates of publication not being less than seven (7) days apart and the date of the last publication to be made not later than ten (10) days before the date of the scheduled initial hearing;
- 2) Furnish with copies of this Order and the attached Notice of Public Hearing the offices of the City Mayor and the Local Government Unit (LGU) legislative body of Quezon

City for the appropriate posting thereof on their respective bulletin boards;

- 3) Inform of the filing of the *Application*, the reasons therefor, and of the scheduled hearing thereon, the consumers within the affected franchise area, by any other means available and appropriate;
- 4) Furnish with copies of this Order and the attached Notice of Public Hearing, the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), the Commission on Audit (COA), and the Committees on Energy of both Houses of Congress. They are hereby requested, if they so desire to send their duly authorized representatives at the scheduled hearing; and
- 5) Furnish with copies of the *Application* and the attachments all those making requests therefor, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs.

On the date of the initial hearing, Applicant must submit to the Commission its written compliance with the aforementioned jurisdictional requirements attaching therewith, methodically arranged and duly marked the following:

- 1) The evidence of publication of the attached Notice of Public Hearing consisting of affidavits of the Editors or Business Managers of the newspapers where the said Notice of Public Hearing was published, and the complete issues of the said newspapers;
- 2) The evidence of actual posting of this Order and the attached Notice of Public Hearing consisting of certifications issued to that effect, signed by the aforementioned Mayor and LGU legislative bodies or their duly authorized representatives, bearing the seals of their offices;
- 3) The evidence of other means employed by Applicant to inform of the filing of the *Application*, the reasons therefore, and of the scheduled hearing thereon, the consumers within the affected franchise area;

- 4) The evidence of receipt of copies of this Order and the attached Notice of Public Hearing by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), the Commission on Audit (COA), and the Committees on Energy of both Houses of Congress;
- 5) The evidence of receipt of copies of the *Application*, and the attachments by all those making requests therefor, if any; and
- 6) Such other proofs of compliance with the requirements of the Commission.

Applicant and all interested parties are also required to submit, at least five (5) days before the date of initial hearing and Pre-Trial Conference, their respective Pre-Trial Briefs containing, among others:

- 1) A summary of admitted facts and proposed stipulation of facts;
- 2) The issues to be tried or resolved;
- 3) The documents or exhibits to be presented, stating the purposes and proposed markings therefore; and
- 4) The number and names of the witnesses, with their written testimonies in a Judicial Affidavit form attached to the Pre-trial Brief.

Failure of Applicant to comply with the above requirements within the prescribed period shall be a ground for cancellation of the scheduled hearing, and the resetting of which shall be six (6) months from the said date of cancellation.

Applicant must also be prepared to make an expository presentation of the instant *Application* aided by whatever communication medium that they may deem appropriate for the purpose, in order to put in plain words and explain, for the benefit of the consumers and other concerned parties, what the *Application* is

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all about and the reasons and justifications being cited in support thereof.

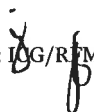
SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, 5 June 2017.

FOR AND BY AUTHORITY
OF THE COMMISSION:



ALFREDO J. NON
Officer-in-Charge of the ERC

LS: /RFM/APV

COPY FURNISHED:

1. Atty. Luis Manuel U. Bugayong, Atty. Ronald Dylan P. Concepcion, Atty. Mark Anthony S. Actub, and Atty. Rayecell D. Baldovino
Counsels for Applicant National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP)
NGCP Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
2. National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP)
Applicant
NGCP Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
3. Office of the Mayor
Quezon City
4. Office of the Local Government Unit (LGU) legislative body
Quezon City
5. Office of the Solicitor General (OSG)
134 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City
6. Commission on Audit (COA)
Commonwealth Avenue
Quezon City
7. Senate Committee on Energy
GSIS Bldg. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
8. House Committee on Energy
Batasan Hills, Quezon City
9. Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)
Campus Avenue corner Park Avenue,
McKinley Town Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
10. Department of Energy (DOE)
Energy Center, Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City,
11. National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)
Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
12. ERC Visayas Field Office
St. Mary's Drive, Banilad, Cebu City
13. ERC Mindanao Field Office
Mintrade Bldg., Monteverde Avenue corner Sales Street, Davao City
14. Regulatory Operations Service
Energy Regulatory Commission
17th Floor, Pacific Center, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

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Applicant.**

D O C K E T E D
Date: JUN 07 2017
By: [Signature]

X-----X

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on 22 April 2017, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) filed an *Application* seeking the Commission's approval of its Visayas – Mindanao interconnection project, including therein a prayer for provisional authority.

In the said *Application*, Applicant alleged the following:

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8. In addition to the survey, NGCP also examined the supply outlook to determine the capacity that can be exported by

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the Luzon and Mindanao grids to ease the power deficiency in Visayas. The results are as follows:

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9. The deficiency of capacity in Visayas may be supplied by importing power from Luzon and Mindanao. The following are the scenarios simulated until 2025, consistent with the planning horizon of the Transmission Development Plan:

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THE PROJECT

12. The Project involves the interconnection of Visayas and Mindanao grids via Cebu and Zamboanga. The converter stations in Visayas and Mindanao will be located in Sibonga, Cebu and Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur, respectively. The High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) system will be linked to the existing Alternating Current (AC) system via Magdugo Substation (SS) in Visayas and direct connection to the New Aurora SS in Mindanao.

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13. The Project will have the following major project components:

- a. converter stations (CS), including associated electrode stations and electrode lines in Sibonga, Cebu and Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur;
- b. cable terminal stations (CTS) in Santander, Cebu and Dapitan, Zamboanga Del Norte;
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- g. new substation in Umapad, Cebu including associated transmission line extensions from Cebu- Lapu Lapu transmission lines;

14. The estimated cost of the project is Fifty One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety six and 70/100 Million Pesos (PhP51,696.70Mn) and is estimated to be completed in forty six (46) months.

Allegations in Support of the Prayer for Provisional Approval

15. The Project is aimed to support the government's undertaking to establish the unified electricity market in the country.

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17. Both the installed capacity mix and energy mix of each major grid as shown in the attachments of the Detailed Project Description, respectively, shows that: Luzon is a coal and natural gas dependent grid; Visayas is a coal and renewable energy dependent grid; while Mindanao is a coal and hydro dependent grid. The differences in the installed capacity mix and in the gross generation mix would provide optimization opportunities in the electricity market in supplying the loads.

18. A copy of the Judicial Affidavit of Engr. Fernando S. Javier, Head of the Mindanao System Planning Division, Transmission Planning Department of NGCP, is hereto attached as Annex "B."

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, NGCP most respectfully prays that this Honorable Commission:

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1. Immediately ISSUE an Order provisionally authorizing the implementation of the Visayas-Mindanao Interconnection Project; and

2. APPROVE, after notice and hearing, the Application for the implementation of the Visayas-Mindanao Interconnection Project.

NGCP prays for other equitable relief.

The Commission has set the said *Application* for hearing on the following dates:

DATE AND TIME	VENUE	PURPOSE
7 July 2017 1:00 P.M.	ERC Visayas Field Office, St. Mary's Drive, Banilad, Cebu City	Determination of compliance with jurisdictional requirements and expository presentation.
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20 July 2017 1:00 P.M.	ERC Hearing Room, 15 th Floor, Pacific Center, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City	Expository presentation, Pre-trial Conference, and presentation of evidence.

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the instant case may become a party by filing with the Commission a verified Petition to Intervene at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements under Rule 9 of the 2006 Rules of Practice and Procedure, indicating therein the docket number and title of the case and stating the following:

- i. The petitioner's name and address;
- ii. The nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and
- iii. A statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the case may file their Opposition or Comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before Applicants rest their case, subject to the requirements under Rule 9 of the 2006 Rules of Practice and Procedure. No particular form of Opposition or Comment is required, but the document, letter, or writing should contain the following:

- 1) The name and address of such person;
- 2) A concise statement of the Opposition or Comment; and
- 3) The grounds relied upon.

All such persons who wish to have a copy of the *Application* may request from Applicant that they be furnished with the same, prior to the date of the initial hearing. Applicant is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the *Application* and its attachments, subject to the reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Any such person may likewise examine the *Application* and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the standard office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable Officer-in-Charge of ERC **ALFREDO J. NON**, and Commissioners **GLORIA VICTORIA C. YAP-TARUC** and **GERONIMO D. STA. ANA**, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 5th day of June 2017 at Pasig City.

FOR AND BY AUTHORITY
OF THE COMMISSION:


JOSEFINA PATRICIA A. MAGPALE-ASIRIT
Commissioner