



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES

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EEl: 3/4/191

08 February 2022

Mrs. Jacqui Sampson- Meiguel
Clerk of the House
Office of the Parliament
Parliamentary Complex
Cabildo Building
St. Vincent Street
Port of Spain
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Dear Ms. Sampson- Meiguel,

**Re: Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure on
An inquiry into the management of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission
(T&TEC) and related Recommendations**

Reference is made to your letter dated January 12, 2022 on the subject matter at caption.

Please find attached the Ministry's written response to the recommendations of the Committee.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Penelope'.

Mrs. Penelope Bradshaw- Niles
Permanent Secretary (Ag)
Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries

Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries Response to Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure- An inquiry into the management of the T&TEC and related Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS

EE. We recommend that the MPU, T&TEC, RIC and MEEI meet to discuss and thoroughly examine the position of the Commission, as it pertains to renewables and submit a policy document on same to the Cabinet for consideration.

MEEI Response:

According to Gazette No. 158 dated September 9th 2020, The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries has Power Generation under its schedule of responsibilities. In this regard the MEEI is in agreement with the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure.

It is important that the MEEI as well as the other recommended stakeholders collaborate on the development of a holistic Renewable Energy (RE) Policy for the government, and by extension the direction of T&TEC. Given that the T&TEC has responsibility for the Grid and Electricity, there must be an alignment of T&TEC's policies, projects and initiatives with stakeholders and other government agencies to ensure:

- Non-duplication of efforts and activities
- Efficiency in the utilization of financing opportunities for RE Projects
- Efficiency in the implementation of the Government's RE target of 30% of demand by 2030.

It is to be noted that the MEEI was not officially informed of T&TEC's PSIP initiatives as it pertains to RE, and as such were not aware of the Projects. It is to be further noted that the MEEI in collaboration with stakeholders, including MPU and T&TEC, is developing a Feed-in-Tariff Policy which is about 90% complete and will go to Cabinet in Q1 2022. There are also plans for the development of a Renewable Energy Policy. As such the Commission's positions are considered in the development of these Policies. Additionally, the abovementioned stakeholders are also collaborating on all of the MEEI's RE Projects and initiatives.

FF. We recommend that subsequent to internal discussions, MPU spearhead stakeholder discussions, including with the COSL on the PSIP Renewable Energy Initiative which will involve stakeholders in the process of preparation for the initiative.

MEEI Response:

The MEEI also agrees with the recommendation that MPU stakeholder spearhead discussions, including with the COSL, in the preparation for the PSIP initiatives. The multi-stakeholder collaborative approach has greatly assisted the MEEI in the development of RE Projects, such as 112.2 MW Solar Project – Project Lara, which are in many cases new to Trinidad and Tobago and

mostly lack the regulatory instruments as well as the enabling environment for implementation. It is to be noted that Project Lara is the first large scale RE Project in Trinidad and Tobago and will be one of the largest Solar PV farms in the Caribbean. Thus, stakeholder discussions are crucial to a unified way forward with respect to RE initiatives.

GG. We recommend that the COSL respond to T&TEC regarding approval to utilise the land area at Matura, Manzanilla and North Matura for the PSIP Renewable Energy Initiative.

MEEI Response:

The MEEI is in agreement with the above recommendation. It is to be noted that MEEI, T&TEC, MPU and COSL are members of the Project Lara Steering Committee and frequently collaborate on the issues related to land availability for the Project. The MEEI acknowledges that COSL will play a vital role in future RE projects as land acquisition and leasing will be required for large scale projects.



Parl.: 14/3/73-Vol V

January 12, 2022

Mrs. Penelope Bradshaw-Niles
Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries
Level 26, Tower C
International Waterfront Centre
No. 1 Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN

Dear Madam Permanent Secretary,

Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure on An Inquiry into the management of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) and related Recommendations

I refer to the Report at caption which was presented in the Senate on December 07, 2021 and in the House of Representatives on December 10, 2021. A copy of the Report is enclosed for ease of reference. Electronic copies can be downloaded via the following link: <https://bit.ly/3tiQ2iA>

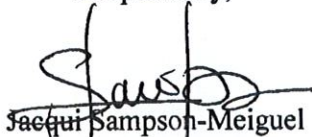
Standing Orders 110(6) and 100(6) of the House of Representatives and Senate respectively, require the Minister with responsibility for the Ministry/body reported on by a Joint Standing Committee to present to each House a paper responding to the recommendations/comments contained in the Report.

The recommendation relevant to Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries is outlined on **page one hundred and eight (108)** of the Committee's Report.

You are kindly asked to note that this written response must be submitted to Parliament within sixty (60) days of the laying of the Committee's report (**i.e. by February 09, 2022**). An electronic copy should be sent to coth@tparliament.org.

Thank you.

Respectfully,


Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

cc: Hon. Stuart Young, MP - Minister of Energy and Energy Industries.

- 97) Discussions are ongoing for a 112.2MW renewable plant to be located mainly in Point Lisas and a section of it in Trincity in the next two (2) years plus.
- 98) T&TEC is looking at an ongoing project with the MEEI for a 700kW vehicle charge station at the Queen's Park Savannah which will also add capacity to the grid.
- 99) The value of renewable capacity T&TEC is seeking to obtain is US.04cents per kW, however this rate cannot be guaranteed.
- 100) T&TEC's grid will have to be tailored because non-dispatchable capacity will only be available for approximately an average of thirty percent (30%) of the time.
- 101) The country will benefit significantly from renewables which will free up natural gas for sale at twice the price on the open market.
- 102) Some plants are also now more efficient, use less gas and compete with renewables.
- 103) There is need to examine the position of the Commission as it pertains to renewables.
- 104) T&TEC is considering marketing 'photovoltaics' as an option for customers and charge stations at appropriate points in preparation for meeting the requirements for the electrical car industry.
- 105) The regulator will have a role in the process of renewables because of the issue of buying and selling.
- 106) T&TEC is willing to partner with any car dealership to advance the use of electric vehicles.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- EE. We recommend that the MPU, T&TEC, RIC and MEEI meet to discuss and thoroughly examine the position of the Commission, as it pertains to renewables and submit a policy document on same to the Cabinet for consideration.**
- FF. We recommend that subsequent to internal discussions, MPU spearhead stakeholder discussions, including with the COSL on the PSIP Renewable Energy Initiative which will involve stakeholders in the process of preparation for the initiative.**
- GG. We recommend that the COSL respond to T&TEC regarding approval to utilise the land area at Matura, Manzanilla and North Matura for the PSIP Renewable Energy Initiative.**