

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS  
**COVID-19**  
2019-NCOV

Let's all continue to exercise the necessary precautions while we are still monitoring the Covid pandemic. Together we can continue to safeguard the wellbeing of our family friends and loved ones in order to help eradicate the spread of the dreaded disease.

***Don't be complacent!! Don't let down your guard!! Stay Safe!!***

***Birds sing after a storm and so will we: Rose Kennedy***



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Independent  
Regulatory  
Commission

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# ENERGY FOCUS

A NEWS LETTER BY THE INDEPENDENT REGULATORY COMMISSION

## GREENING DOMINICA'S ELECTRICITY



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- Review of NEP
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- CAREC Conference
- OOCUR Conference
- Transmission Network-  
Master Plan for Resilience



Prospective site - Tarou

## Visit at prospective site for utility scale solar PV farm

The Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) is working in partnership with the IRC to start the process of establishing utility scale PV generation as per the Sustainable and Resilient Energy Plan (S-REP) for Commonwealth of Dominica. This engagement started in the latter half of the year 2019.

In August 2019, DOMLEC and the IRC visited one of the sites with CCI team members as the photo below depicts. This site visit was done to better appreciate the topography and suitability of



existing access points to the site. Work on this project is ongoing and the engagements in the de-risking of the proposed site undertaken thus far includes:

1. The survey of one of the sites to re-establish the boundaries and size of the plot
2. Geo-technical studies;
3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study.

Items 2 and 3 are in progress. The solar density and other designs consideration are now being pursued to establish the maximum output that can be produced from one of the prospective sites.



# DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK!!

**It is up to the customer to ensure that they get the service they deserve from their electricity provider.**

*The Commission has instituted Quality of Service Standards to ensure that consumers of electricity get the service they deserve. These comprise of Guaranteed Standards and Overall Standards.*

Guaranteed Standards are a set of service standards which the utility (DOMLEC) must guarantee as a basic level of service to individual customers.

Overall Standards are a set of service standards which affects the electricity system generally, and consequently service/quality of electricity supplied to large group of customers will be affected.

**A Guaranteed Standard is said to be breached, where DOMLEC has not met the service criteria for a given standard.**

**\* ARE YOU AWARE** that unless you and your service provider have agreed to a **specific date**, that your service provider (DOMLEC) must complete a new connection of supply within **5 working days** -

and that failure to do so on the part of the service provider, will result in a breach, and as a result of the breach, an amount of **\$12.00** is automatically credited to your account if your connection is Domestic and **\$33.00** if your connection is for Commercial purposes?

**\* ARE YOU AWARE** that unless you and your service provider have agreed to a **specific date**, a request for change of meter to Pay-As-You-Go or vice versa, should be addressed and completed **within seven (7) days** after a customer has met all the conditions for the Pay-As-You-Go service, and that a breach on the part of DOMLEC will result in an amount of **\$12.00** automatically credited to your account if your connection is Domestic and **\$33.00** if it is Commercial?

**\* ARE YOU AWARE** that a customer should not receive **two (2) consecutive estimated bills**, and that a breach on the part of the DOMLEC allows the customer to file a claim at the office of the service provider, after which the customer will be entitled to a credit of **\$12.00** where the connection is Domestic and **\$33.00** if it is commercial?

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT/ACTIVITIES: WHALE WATCHING



## IRC'S STAFF FUN DAY



IRC's annual staff fun day was an event well attended by the majority of staff as well as some of its Commissioners. 2019's event took place on Saturday August 10th 2019 and the activity engaged in was Whale Watching which was facilitated by Dive Dominica Ltd. The boat ride provided a great time for interaction and relaxation and it was gratifying to have captured the breathtaking view of the whales during the three-hour expedition as they playfully graced us with their presence.

## IRC's PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF NEP (National Energy Policy )

### National Energy Policy (NEP)

In the second half of 2019, IRC, along with a number of other stakeholders, participated in the review process of the National Energy Policy. This was particularly needed following the impact of hurricane Maria which exposed critical needs in the electricity sector and the energy sector as a whole.

The critical objective of the policy is to utilize sustainable and indigenous sources of energy, to produce and supply electricity at the lowest cost possible, as well as, making electricity production and consumption more efficient. A final draft of the NEP was produced at the end of this process.



## Meeting at the Financial Center on EV (Electrical Vehicles)

In the 2019 budget the Government of Dominica announced zero duty on electric vehicles. In order to put this policy into effect, the Ministry of Environment convened a broad stakeholders meeting in September 2019 to discuss the path forward and issues involved with implementing this policy and increasing the use of electric

vehicles in Dominica. The IRC was one of the stakeholders who participated in this meeting. Going forward, the Commission expects to play a role in ensuring the success of this policy and participate in setting appropriate policies in this area, in order to manage the impact on the national grid.

# CAREC CONFERENCE

Through CARICOM, regional regulators from various jurisdictions in the Caribbean region, were invited to participate at the Carilec's Renewable Energy Community(CAREC) 2019 Renewable Energy and Smart Grid Conference, which was held from September 14th to 17th, 2019 under the theme "Rethinking Resilience in an Era of Disruption."

Present were representatives from the following regulatory bodies in the region OUR, RIC, IRC, FTC, PUC Guyana, and PUC Belize. Other representatives came from regional utilities as well as the United States and South America. A few service providers and manufacturers also attended.



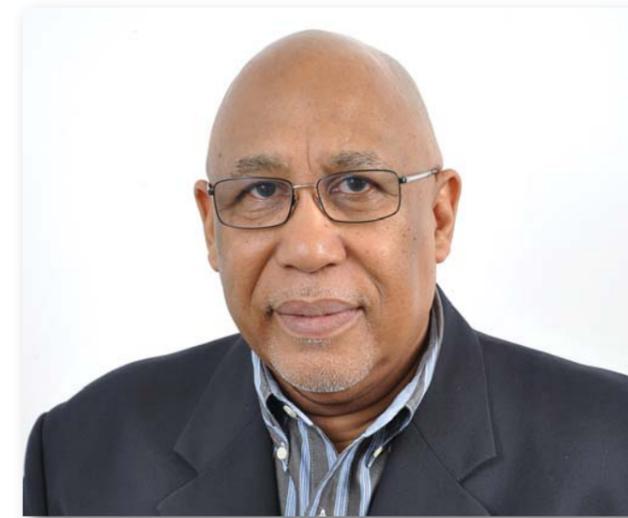
On the Sunday prior to the opening of the conference a plenary session was held amongst all regulators, in order to discuss current issues and challenges faced between regulators and the utilities in the region. The conference kicked off on the morning of September 14th. A discussion was held amongst regulators and utility representatives

on specific issues and challenges related to the deployment of renewable energy resources in the Caribbean.

In the days following, representatives from the various utilities made presentations on various aspects of their experiences regarding the deployment of renewable generation. The final day culminated in a training exercise on energy planning using LEAP (Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning system). It is a widely-used software tool for energy policy analysis and climate change mitigation assessment.



IRC's Executive Director Mr. Justinn Kase who attended that conference, reported that overall, the sessions were good and the experiences shared by the various presenters were well received



TRIBUTE TO  
**JEFFREY PAUL MORGAN**  
SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1947 –  
JANUARY 19TH, 2020

On January 19th, 2020, the IRC was greeted with the sad and overwhelming news of the passing away of a true friend and renowned regulatory consultant from Jamaica, Mr. Jeffrey Paul Morgan, affectionately called JP.

Mr. Morgan was a former Director General of the Office of Utilities Regulations of (OUR) Jamaica, former CEO of the Office of Regulation of the Cayman Islands and a former Deputy Chairman and Board member of Utilities Regulation & Competition Authority (URCA) in the Bahamas. He provided professional assistance to many regional regulators, including the Independent Regulatory Commission (IRC) of Dominica. He was well known on the regional and international levels for his work in utility regulation, having served as the Chairman of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO) for a time. He was a founding member of the Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) and served on its Executive Council as Chairman on behalf of the OUR (Jamaica) for many years.

The IRC remembers Mr. Morgan, who from inception, supported the Commission by providing regulatory expertise and tremendous guidance to its development, particularly in its policy formulations. He worked with the IRC throughout the years. Up to the last quarter of 2019, he was very instrumental in reviewing strategic regulatory documents and providing clarification and direction on various regulatory matters to the IRC.

JP was endowed with a calm demeanor and unique personality. He had an extensive wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of utility regulations.

His passing is a great loss to us at the IRC in Dominica and the entire region. We have lost a true and insightful friend.

May his soul rest in peace.



## OOCUR CONFERENCE

Mr. Justinn Kase, IRC's Executive Director, attended the 17th Annual Conference of the Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR), held in Anguilla from November 11th to the 13th, 2019; and hosted by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Anguilla.

OOCUR is a non-profit organization incorporated in Guyana. It was established by an Agreement dated July 26th, 2002 which was signed by six representatives of Caribbean utility regulators in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. OOCUR has twelve (12) members whose responsibilities for regulation

include telecommunications, energy, electricity, water, sewerage and wastewater, natural gas and transportation sectors.

OOCUR is governed by the General Assembly which comprises of the members. The General Assembly elects an Executive Council each year to manage OOCUR's affairs. Its objectives are to assist in the improvement of utility regulation, foster transparent and stable utility regulation through autonomous and independent regulators in

member countries, undertake research, training and development and facilitate understanding of regulation issues and sharing of information and experience.

The IRC continues to be an active member of OOCUR.



The theme of 2019's conference, "Smart and Green Regulation – Technologically Driven and Environmentally Friendly", captured the prevailing trends in regulations for the water, energy and telecommunication sectors. The topics presented included:

- Resilience in the Energy Sector
- Knowledge Management
- Utility Affordability
- Electric Vehicles
- Regulatory Framework for Renewable Energy integration in the Caribbean
- Implementation of Performance-based Regulations

## Feasibility Study - Transmission Network - Masterplan for Resilience

On October 15th 2019 engineering consultants Tractebel Engie, presented the "Feasibility Study for the Resilience of the Transmission Network – Master Plan for Resilience" at the Fort Young Hotel Conference Room. The presentation was made to IRC, DOMLEC, Government officials and other stake holders in the electricity sector. The study focused primarily on enhancing the reliability and resilience of the transmission network in Dominica. Hurricane Maria exposed significant vulnerability of the Transmission and Distribution Network. The vulnerability of various areas in Dominica was assessed for the three main meteorological risks; landslides, wind and flooding. The various areas were also prioritized in terms of population and the importance of the facilities located there. Critical loads such as hospitals were naturally more highly prioritized. The study presented various scenarios for enhancing reliability

and resilience of the transmission network along with a cost-benefit analysis of implementing those scenarios.

Implementation of the various scenarios presented for enhancement of resilience and reliability will depend largely on the availability of investment capital and the level of impact on future electricity rates. The IRC is fully committed to supporting these efforts.



## STAFF DEVELOPMENT/ACTIVITIES:

### OOCUR /CDB FUNDED GRANT PROPOSAL WRITING WORKSHOP



enable participants to become more verse in the various steps associated in developing and completing a bankable grant proposal.

The five days were rather intense, with the host along with an NGO training provider, actively engaging the participants with step by step guidance on the practical development of a grant proposal.

In the end every participant felt that they were more informed on the manner in which a grant proposal should be done to attract the attention of investors in granting its approval for the application of funds for specific projects.

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) partnered with the Fair-Trade Commission (FTC) and Organization of Caribbean Utility regulator (OOCUR) in hosting and delivering a grant proposal writing workshop in Barbados from October 28th to November 1st, 2019. This workshop specifically targeted utility regulators in the electricity sector. The aim of the workshop was to

The CDB also informed the group that grant funding was available for specific projects and training under Technical Assistance Programme for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean (TAPSEC).

IRC's Executive Director, Mr. Justinn Kase, along with the Administrative Officer, Mrs. Florestine Felix-Laurent, attended that workshop.



The aim of the workshop was to

# ON-GOING ACTIVITIES OF THE NEC

IRC, along with the Dominica Bureau of Standards (DBOS), was a lead agency in the formation of the National Electrotechnical Committee (NEC) in 2012. The Committee comprises of stakeholders from the electrical industry and the general public, to look at the adoption and formulation standards in the electrotechnical area. The stakeholders include both Public and Private Sector entities such as, Dominica State College, DOMLEC, Electrical Division, Private electricians, the Board of Engineering, Dominica Consumer Protection Association, Dominica Association of Professional Engineers, IRC. They were all under the auspices of the DBOS.

The NEC made significant progress on a number of major activities during 2019. The most important activity was the finalization of the Dominica Code of Practice – Electrical Wiring (COP). The code was then released for public comment. As part of this process IRC organized a public consultation on the COP which was opened to all electricians in Dominica and to the general public. The consultation was well attended and there were vigorous participation and comments. The public comments will be discussed and

decided upon by the committee. Final approval of the Code is expected in 2020.

The committee also approved the DNS/ANSI C12.1 Dominica National Standard Electric Meters Code for Electricity Metering which mainly applies to the utility electricity metering and the DNS/ANSI C12:20 Electric Meters 0.2 and 0.5



Accuracy Classes. Additionally, the committee approved standards for performance of CFL and LED lighting.

The committee expects to accelerate its standardization work in 2020.