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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Energy (Technical Working Group)	HB 1222	Rep. Umali	Declaring power infrastructure projects as projects of national significance, amending for the purpose certain provisions of RA 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Rep. Rodel Batocabe (Party-List, AKO BICOL), agreed to draft a Substitute Bill to HB 1222 incorporating therein the recommendations of the resource persons. The substitute bill will be presented to the mother Committee for its consideration and approval.</p> <p>Department of Energy's (DOE) Director for Energy Policy and Planning Bureau (EPPB) Patrick Aquino recommended the inclusion of a provision in the bill that will mandate the DOE to set the standards for considering power projects to be of national significance and aligned to the energy plan of the national government.</p> <p>Under Section 2 of HB 1222, any power infrastructure project that is declared to be of national significance shall be exempted from the payment of real property taxes and required business permits.</p> <p>On the other hand, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines' (NGCP) Assistant Corporate Secretary Ronald Concepcion suggested that power projects which fall below the threshold but are intended for maintenance and rehabilitation should still be considered projects of national significance.</p> <p>Meralco PowerGen Corporation President Rogelio Singson proposed the inclusion of a provision in the bill that will set a cap or ceiling in the assessment of private properties or right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions that will be used for power projects.</p> <p>Commenting on the proposed privatization of the Agus and Pulangi Complexes, all the stakeholders present in the meeting were against it and instead pushed for the rehabilitation of these power plants.</p> <p>The National Electrification Administration (NEA), National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), National Power Corporation (NPC), Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) expressed their support for the passage of the proposed law, except for the privatization of the Agus and Pulangi Complexes. They were requested to submit to the TWG their recommendations to be incorporated in the substitute bill.</p>