



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

URCA Publishes Draft Consultation Procedures Guidelines For Public Comment

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) today published its Draft Consultation Procedure Guidelines (URCA 01/2016) setting out the manner in which stakeholders in the sectors it regulates and the community may comment on regulatory and public policy matters that URCA addresses.

The consultation will be open for comments until 25 November 2016 during which period comments may be submitted to URCA. URCA is encouraging the public to share its views the draft Consultation Procedure Guidelines which will establish the rules under which URCA engages the community on issues affecting the electronics communications and electricity sectors. Consultation Documents are periodically published by URCA on matters affecting consumers and operators in the two sectors which URCA currently regulates, namely the electronic communications

sector and the electricity sector. The consultation process is the avenue through which URCA obtains the input of interested persons and the public in its decision making process.

The Draft Consultation Procedures Guidelines document sets out URCA's proposed procedures on a number of areas relevant to consultations such as:

- The consultation notification process, which includes a requirement for URCA to publish a notice that a consultation document has been issued in two national newspapers and on URCA's website.
- The method of consultation, which may be formal or informal depending on the decision or activity that is to be undertaken.
- The manner in which interested persons may respond to the consultations (i.e. responses must be in writing).
- How URCA will treat information that is confidential that is included as part of a submission by a respondent to a consultation.
- Proposed consultation timeframes which will be set by URCA depending on the complexity of the consultation.

The Draft Consultation Procedures Guidelines is available for download from URCA's website at:

<http://www.urcabahamas.bs/consultations.php?cmd=view&article=421>