



November 02, 2015

**MEMORANDUM No. 2015-031**

**TO : ALL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES**

**SUBJECT : CLARIFICATION ON SPECIFICATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS**

This refers to the Memorandum issued by the Department of Energy dated April 20, 2015 regarding the Distribution Transformer Handbook for ECs (The Handbook) which serves as a guide for the proper specifications, selection, application, operation and maintenance for distribution transformers.

Consistent with the objective of fostering better efficiency levels, all Electric Cooperatives are enjoined to openly consider distribution transformers that offer new and similar technology, elements and or components that can offer efficiency levels equal or lower to the ranges indicated in the Handbook.

In particular, Clause 5.2.2., Part I – Technical Specifications on the Handbook, the phrase **"High-conductivity copper"** should not be misinterpreted to mean sole use of **"purely copper" on the winding material**. Note that the global technological advances show that the utilization of other elements such as aluminum, purely or in combination with copper, can actually yield efficiency levels and lower transformer losses equal to or even better than the ranges indicated in the Handbook.

More importantly, attention should instead be given to the other more significant performance indicators laid out in the Handbook – voltage ratings and taps, frequency, KVA ratings, insulation levels, percent impedance, losses, short circuit characteristics, loading capabilities, audible sounds levels, testing processes, certifications and reports, among others.

Considering that distribution transformers are vital in pursuing the last leg of rural electrification in the most remote parts of the archipelago, it is imperative that all electric cooperatives be properly guided and enabled to make the right choices and decisions in this regard, and to ensure that the tasks of ensuring power quality and service reliability, and reducing system losses are not compromised.

For your information and compliance.

Thank you.

*Edita S. Bueno*  
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Administrator



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*11/2/15*