



**ADVISORY**  
**2025-10-001-SEC**

**TO** : ALL CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs)  
GENERATION COMPANIES (GenCos)  
SYSTEM OPERATOR  
MARKET OPERATOR  
DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES  
DIRECT CONNECTION CUSTOMERS

**SUBJECT** : IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE STOP-THE-CLOCK  
MECHANISM IN THE EVOSS SYSTEM

**DATE** : **OCT 03 2025**

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**WHEREAS**, on 08 March 2019, Republic Act No. 11234, otherwise known as “*Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop Act*” (EVOSS Act), was signed into law and took effect on 30 March 2019;

**WHEREAS**, on 28 May 2019, Department Circular No. DC2019-05-007, otherwise known as the “*Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 11234*” (IRR), was issued;

**WHEREAS**, under Section 5, Chapter II of the EVOSS Act and Rule 5, Part II of the IRR, within one (1) year from the effectivity of the Act, the Department of Energy (DOE) shall establish the EVOSS. Towards this end, the DOE shall operate and maintain an effective information technology infrastructure system, which shall be updated regularly;

**WHEREAS**, under Section 9(h), Chapter II of the EVOSS Act and Section 6(g), Rule 8, Part II of the IRR, the DOE shall supervise, operate, and maintain the EVOSS;

**WHEREAS**, under Section 2, Rule 9, Part III of the IRR, the failure of a government agency or other entity to act upon a submission within three (3) working days shall be deemed approval of the completeness of the submission;

**WHEREAS**, under Section 4, Rule 9, Part III of the IRR, the failure of the mother agency and its attached bureaus, offices, and agencies, at both the national and local levels, including government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), to release their action on applications duly submitted with complete supporting electronic documents within the prescribed time frame shall cause such applications to be deemed approved as of the date immediately following the last day corresponding to the prescribed time frame;

**WHEREAS**, the EVOSS Steering Committee (ESC) recognized that there are conditions beyond the reasonable control of the concerned government agencies or entities, namely: the occurrence of human-induced or natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, system blackouts, or cybersecurity attacks, which may hinder the timely evaluation of duly submitted applications;

**WHEREAS**, the ESC issued ESC Resolution No. 2023-07-01, entitled "*Delegation of Authority to the DOE to Implement the Stop-the-Clock Mechanism in the EVOSS System*," which applies only to the specified conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the DOE is directed to formulate guidelines for, and implement, the Stop-the-Clock Mechanism in the EVOSS System on behalf of the ESC, and to amend the relevant provisions under the IRR to implement ESC Resolution No. 2023-07-01.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the DOE hereby issues the guidelines for the implementation of the Stop-the-Clock Mechanism in the EVOSS System.

**Section 1. General Principles.** The following principles shall govern the implementation of the Stop-the-Clock Mechanism in the EVOSS System:

1. Under the Stop-the-Clock Mechanism, the period for approval or disapproval of complete applications duly submitted to government agencies or entities covered by the EVOSS Act shall be suspended, for a maximum allowable period of seven (7) calendar days and such suspension shall apply only in the affected areas, from the date of occurrence of the following conditions:
  - a. Tropical Cyclones, as categorized by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) – Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA);
  - b. Earthquakes, based on the applicable Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) Earthquake Intensity Scale (PEIS);
  - c. Cybersecurity Attacks, as declared by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT);
  - d. System Blackouts, as declared by the DOE, in coordination with the concerned distribution utility; and
  - e. Human-Induced Disasters, as declared by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) or the Department of National Defense (DND), in coordination with the concerned LGU.
2. The suspension of the time frame shall not prevent the concerned government agency or entity from continuing its evaluation, or from approving or disapproving applications earlier than the maximum allowable period, once the

abovementioned events have ceased or the concerned government agency or entity is otherwise able to resume competent evaluation of pending applications.

**Section 2. Scope and Coverage.** The Stop-the-Clock Mechanism in the EVOSS System shall apply only to active applications and shall be implemented only in the affected areas, from the date of the declaration by the competent authority of the occurrence of natural calamities, Cybersecurity Attacks, System Blackouts, and Human-Induced Disasters.

Suspension may likewise apply in cases when personnel of the government agency or entity are required to travel and conduct inspections of plants, sites, or energy facilities located in areas affected by the abovementioned conditions.

**Section 3. Definition of Terms.**

- 3.1. **Cybersecurity Attack** refers to an attack, via cyberspace, targeting an enterprise for the purpose of disrupting, disabling, destroying, or maliciously controlling a computing environment or infrastructure; destroying the integrity of the data; or stealing controlled information.
- 3.2. **Earthquake** refers to weak to violent shaking of the ground caused by the sudden movement of rock materials below the earth's surface.
- 3.3. **Human-Induced Disaster** refers to significant human-induced incidents resulting in acts of terrorism, destabilization, criminal activities, and disruption of normal day-to-day economic activities, requiring prompt intervention to contain the incident, mitigate its effects, and normalize the situation.
- 3.4. **System Blackout** refers to the total loss of power to a wide area and for a long duration, lasting from a few minutes to a few weeks depending on the nature of the blackout and the configuration of the electrical network.
- 3.5. **Tropical Cyclone** refers to a non-frontal, synoptic-scale cyclone developing over tropical and sub-tropical waters at any level and having an organized circulation.

**Section 4. Suspension of the Time Frame.**

Condition	Parameter	Declaration by the Competent Authority	Covered period (Suspension of Time in the EVOSS System)
Tropical Cyclone	Tropical Cyclone Wind Signals (TCWS) as determined by PAGASA, pursuant to Executive Order	Upon declaration of suspension of work by the competent authority in affected areas	From the date of declaration until the next working day

Condition	Parameter	Declaration by the Competent Authority	Covered period (Suspension of Time in the EVOSS System)
	No. 66, series of 2012	where the office of the agency/entity or where the energy facility subject to inspection is located	
Earthquake	PEIS as determined by PHILVOLCS	Upon declaration of suspension of work by the competent authority in affected areas where the office of the agency/entity or where the energy facility subject to inspection is located	From the date of declaration of suspension of work until the issuance of safety clearance by the competent authority
Cybersecurity Attack	Declared by the National Computer Emergency Response Team (NCERT) of the Cybersecurity Bureau of the DICT	Applies only when the Cybersecurity Attack results in significant system downtime	From the date of declaration until the resolution of the system downtime
System Blackout	Declared by the DOE, in coordination with the concerned distribution utility	Applies only in affected areas where the office of the agency/entity is located	From the date of declaration until resolution of the System Blackout
Human-Induced Disaster	Declared by the DILG or DND, in coordination with the concerned LGU	Applies only in affected areas identified by DILG or DND	From the date of declaration until the issuance of safety clearance by the competent authority

**Section 5. Lifting of the suspension.** Upon establishing the cessation of the conditions, the DOE shall resume the processing and review of applications and cause the adjustments in the EVOSS system accordingly.

**Section 6. Exceeding the Seven (7) Days Allowable Maximum Period of Suspension.** In cases when any of the conditions have not ceased or the severity of hazards still exist and the government agency or entity is incapable of performing its official functions, the DOE may, upon determination and recommendation of the competent authority, seek approval of the ESC for the extension of the period of suspension.

**Section 7. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Investment Promotion Office (IPO) of the DOE, as the Secretariat of the ESC, shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Respond to all requests regarding the time frame suspension;
2. Provide an Advisory on the suspension of time frame in the affected areas;
3. Implement the Stop-the-Clock mechanism in the EVOSS System;
4. Provide technical support to all concerned agencies, entities, and personnel who use the EVOSS System; and
5. Coordinate with relevant agencies requiring joint declarations.

This Advisory shall take effect immediately upon signature, unless otherwise amended or revoked.

  
**SHARON S. GARIN**  
Secretary

