

RIC NEWS

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RIC COMMENCES THE PRICE REVIEW PROCESS FOR T&TEC AND WASA.



RIC hosts the **15th**
Annual
OCUR
Conference



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RIC Appoints New *Executive Director*

Dr. James Lee Young

The Regulated Industries Commission (RIC) has appointed Dr. James Lee Young as Executive Director, effective August 1st, 2017.

Dr. Lee Young has more than 25 years' experience in various sectors including Energy, Utility, Manufacturing and Service, both locally and internationally. He has held senior executive and leadership positions in organizations such as Shell International, British Borneo, Venture Production, Ten Degrees North Energy Ltd and briefly held the post of CEO of the Water and Sewerage Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (WASA). He brings to the RIC a range of competencies in business, economics, finance, organizational transformation and project management.

Dr. Lee Young has pursued business studies at the London Business School, London, UK and possesses a MA and PhD in Coastal Engineering from St. John's College, University of Cambridge. He also holds a BSc (Hons) 1st Class in Civil Engineering from Imperial College, London, UK.

Dr. Lee Young served as the President of the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce, which under his leadership was restructured to the Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago. He continues to hold directorships within the finance and services industry.

The Board of Commissioners and Staff warmly welcomes Dr. Lee Young to the RIC and is confident that his unique blend of training, knowledge and experience will allow him to deliver the highest level of performance to the RIC.

The RIC is the statutory body that regulates the Water, Wastewater and Electricity Sectors in Trinidad and Tobago.





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RIC COMMENCES THE PRICE REVIEW PROCESS FOR T&TEC AND WASA

The Regulated Industries Commission (RIC) wishes to advise that it has commenced the process of Price Reviews for the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission - T&TEC (Electricity Transmission and Distribution Sector) and the Water and Sewerage Authority - WASA (the Water and Wastewater Sector).

The Price Review process will consist of THREE PHASES which are detailed below, along with the projected timeline:

First Phase

Publication and circulation of the RIC document **"Framework and Approach"**, which outlines the process that the RIC will follow to conduct the Reviews. This will be accompanied by the publication of the RIC document **"Information Requirements: Business Plan"**, which details the information that the Service Providers (WASA and T&TEC) must submit to the RIC for these Reviews.

Quarters 3 - 4, 2017

Second Phase

Publication and circulation of various consultative documents which will detail the RIC's views on key areas that inform the Review process. All stakeholders (private and public) are welcomed at this time to comment and provide their feedback on documents which will be carefully considered by the RIC. One key area of concern is the quality of service provided by the utilities. The RIC is currently reviewing the existing Quality of Service Scheme for T&TEC, and the proposed revisions will address new areas of concern such as the time taken to obtain a new connection. The RIC is also in the process of establishing a QSS for WASA which will address, among other things:

- provision of a minimum water supply to customers;
- the time taken to resolve customer complaints;
- the time taken for new connections to be completed; and
- the time in which the supply of water is restored after an unplanned interruption.

Quarter 4 - 2017 to Quarter 2 - 2018

Third Phase

Publication and circulation of the RIC document **"Draft Determination (Rates and Miscellaneous Charges)"** after its review of the respective Service Provider Business Plan/ Pricing Proposal and the feedback solicited from all stakeholders on the keys areas of concern. All stakeholders (private and public) will be welcomed at this time to comment and provide their invaluable feedback on this crucial document. This phase will also include face to face public consultation sessions between the RIC and various stakeholders during this period.

**Quarter 1 - 2018 to
Quarter 2 - 2018**

The RIC will conclude the process by publishing and circulating the RIC documents **"Final Determination (Rates and Miscellaneous Charges)"** for each sector, after it has reviewed all comments and concerns raised with respect to the specific Draft Determination. The Review process for both utilities is expected to be completed by mid-2018.

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS CAN NOW BE ACCESSED ON THE RIC'S WEBSITE AT www.ric.org.tt:

- **Information Requirements: Business Plan 2018-2023 Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission;** and
- **Framework and Approach Second Regulatory Control Period Electricity Transmission & Distribution Sector.**

As an impartial and independent body, the RIC remains committed to fulfilling its mandate of protecting consumer interests while at the same time ensuring that the Service Provider has adequate resources to provide the highest quality of service to all customers at efficient cost. At the same time the RIC is cognizant of the need to ensure that the poor and other vulnerable groups have access to these services at rates they can afford.

FOLLOW US:



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Participants at the 15th Annual OOCUR Conference 2017 at the Magdalena Grand Golf and Beach Resort, Tobago.

The Regulated Industries Commission (RIC), Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with OOCUR hosted the 15th Annual Conference of the Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) from the 8th – 10th November 2017 at the Magdalena Grand Beach & Golf Resort, Tobago.

The event drew more than 100 participants from regulatory bodies in Barbados, Jamaica, Anguilla, the Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Dominica, Turks and Caicos, the Cayman Islands, among others, as well as participants from the local business, regulatory and utility sectors including Ministry of Public Utilities, Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, WASA, T&TEC, Desalcott, the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago the Environmental Management Authority, the Energy Chamber, etc.

The conference featured an opening address by Senator the Honourable, Robert Le Hunte, Minister of Public Utilities; remarks from Assemblyman Clarence Jacob, Secretary of Settlements, Urban Renewal and Public Utilities, THA together with distinguished speakers, both local and foreign, at the forefront of the debate on independent utility regulation.

The Keynote Speaker for the Conference, Dr. Sanford (Sandy) Berg, Senior Fellow, Public Utility Research Center, University of Florida provided an insightful presentation “Three Lessons for Improving Infrastructure Performance” in keeping with the Conference theme this year “Balancing the Interests – Lessons from Caribbean Regulators.”

Participants, who included regulatory specialists, policy makers and academics, got an opportunity to hear and discuss the latest ideas about the theory and practice of regulation and consumer related matters in the regulatory sphere of the Water and Wastewater, Telecommunications & ICT, Electricity & Energy Sectors.



The hardworking Staff of the RIC at the OOCUR Conference Dinner

NEWS

RELEASE



T&T RIC Elected Chairman of OOCUR

The Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) has elected the Regulated Industries Commission (RIC) in Trinidad and Tobago as its chairman for the 2017-2018 year.

Renowned lecturer and Commissioner of the RIC Mr. Clayton Blackman has been selected to represent the Commission on the Executive Council.

The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) which had been chairman for the 2016-2017 year was elected Deputy Chairman.

Other members of the Executive Council elected at the Fifteenth Annual Conference convened at the Magdalena Grand Resort in Tobago between November 8 and 10, 2017, were the Independent Regulatory Commission in Dominica, the Fair Trading Commission in Barbados and the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority in The Bahamas.

The 2017 conference which was organized by the RIC and saw more than one hundred persons registering and presenters from the Caribbean, Europe and the United States.

The theme for the conference was "Balancing the Interests - Lessons from Caribbean Regulators".

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF OOCUR

To assist in the improvement of utility regulation.

To foster transparent and stable utility regulation through autonomous and independent regulators in member countries.

To undertake research, training & development.

To facilitate understanding of regulation issues and sharing of information and experience.

OOCUR INC. is a non-profit organisation, established by an Agreement dated July 26, 2002 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, by the following signatories of utility regulators of the Caribbean: Cosbert Manchester Board Member of the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority, Justice Frank King, GCM, Chairman of the Fair Trading Commission, Barbados, Winston C. Hay, Director General of the Office of Utilities Regulation, Jamaica, Peter Bethe, I Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission, Bahamas, Justice Prem Persaud, CCH, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission, Guyana, Dr. Patrick Watson, Deputy Chairman of the Regulated Industries Commission, Trinidad & Tobago.

Full Membership of OOCUR is open to regulatory bodies with responsibilities in telecommunications, electricity, natural gas, water and transportation sectors in the Caribbean.

Associate Membership of OOCUR is open to Non-Caribbean utility regulators and associations of utility regulators.





NEW RICRUITS

Victor Rodriguez, Standards Engineer

Question & Answer



Victor was asked to give candid answers to the questions below so that we can 'learn' him. Here are the first responses that came to his mind:

Q What did you do at your previous job?

A At my previous job, I was an applications engineer responsible for assisting clients in determining and implementing solutions to reduce the energy consumption of their facilities which ranged from a domestic to an industrial scale. These solutions ranged from basic consultation to installation of high efficiency chillers for large processing operations.

Q How has your experience at the RIC been so far?

A My experience at the RIC so far has been an eye-opener on the inner workings of the governance of public utilities. It has been a change from performing "hands-on" field work and came as a bit of a surprise the degree of detail that is included in developing the utilities however it provides a strong sense of purpose and satisfactory feeling to know that I am doing something to improve the quality of life and economy of Trinidad and Tobago.

Ms. Balkaran has 15 years of dedicated service to the RIC and formerly held the position of Senior Tariff Analyst. The Management and Staff of the RIC extends best wishes to Ms. Balkaran in her new position at the RIC.



Ms. Carol Balkaran, Deputy Executive Director



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RIC's PUBLIC CONSULTATION GUIDELINES

The Regulated Industries Commission (RIC) has revised its existing consultation guidelines and is seeking the views of the public in this regard.

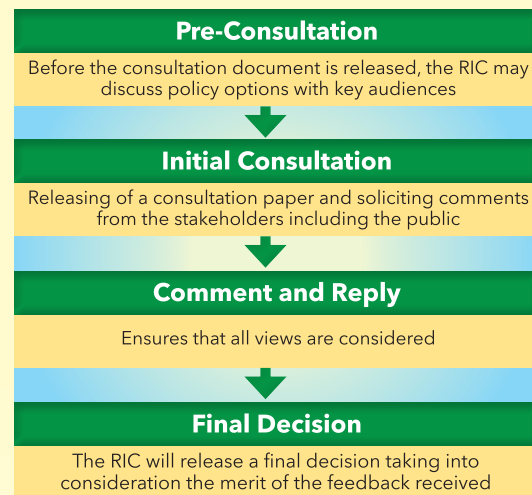
Why Consult?

Consultation usually enables the best possible regulatory outcomes and the RIC will work towards ensuring that:

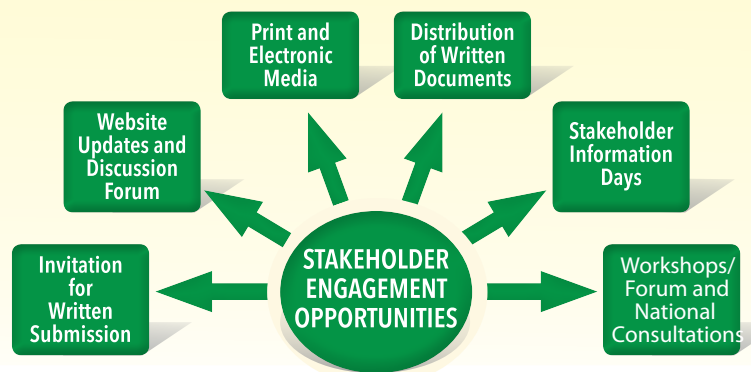
- All Stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to express their views;
- Adequate and accurate information is shared between stakeholders and the RIC;
- Input, information and feedback is obtained from persons whose rights or interests may be materially affected or prejudiced by the proposed regulatory measure or decision;
- The Commission fosters transparency and objectivity;
- Stakeholders' understanding, participation and confidence in the regulatory process is strengthened; and
- Information from the public, service providers, stakeholders and industry professionals on any issue is obtained in order for RIC to make informed decisions.

PROCESS

The RIC's consultation process includes the following discrete components:



The RIC will provide various opportunities to encourage wide participation and intends to keep stakeholders informed.



The RIC invites comments for the **Guidelines for the Public Consultation Process of the Regulated Industries Commission** document which can be accessed on the RIC's website at www.ric.org.tt



SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:

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EMAIL ADDRESS:

comments@ric.org.tt or ricoffice@ric.org.tt

CALL: 800-4RIC (4742)

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15th Annual OOCUR Conference *Photo Gallery*

The RIC, in collaboration with OOCUR hosted the 15th Annual Conference of the Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) from the 8th – 10th November 2017 at the Magdalena Grand Beach & Golf Resort, Tobago.



Head table looks on as the Khalnayak Academy of Dance perform during the Opening Ceremony.



Senator the Hon. Robert Le Hunte Minister of Public Utilities delivers the Feature Address.



Dr. James Lee Young - Executive Director of the RIC moderating the Utility Regulation Policy Session.



Center: Commissioner Clayton Blackman at the Cocktail Reception.



Tobago Cultural Group perform at the Cocktail Reception.



Corporate Communications Manager - Driselle Ramjohn present a token of appreciation to Justice Prem Persaud for his service to OOCUR.

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**RIC NEWS WELCOMES
YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS!**

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