INDEPENDENT ENERGY PRODUCER AMENDMENTS
2016 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Francis D. Gibson
Senate Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper
LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill amends provisions related to an independent energy producer.
Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
 exempts, from regulation by the Public Service Commission as a public utility,
under certain conditions, an independent energy producer that provides energy to a
residential customer participating in a net metering program in an area served by an
electrical corporation with more than 200,000 retail customers in the state;
 provides that an agreement between an independent energy producer and a customer
shall contain certain provisions; and
provides that a public utility is obligated to serve a customer in the public utility's
service area that is partially served by an independent energy producer.
Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:
None
Utah Code Sections Affected:
AMENDS:
54-2-1, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapters 20, 381, and 388
54-15-108, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 381



ENACTS:
54-2-201 , Utah Code Annotated 1953
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
Section 1. Section 54-2-1 is amended to read:
54-2-1. Definitions.
As used in this title:
(1) "Avoided costs" means the incremental costs to an electrical corporation of electric
energy or capacity or both that, due to the purchase of electric energy or capacity or both from
small power production or cogeneration facilities, the electrical corporation would not have to
generate itself or purchase from another electrical corporation.
(2) "Cogeneration facility":
(a) means a facility that produces:
(i) electric energy; and
(ii) steam or forms of useful energy, including heat, that are used for industrial,
commercial, heating, or cooling purposes; and
(b) is a qualifying cogeneration facility under federal law.
(3) "Commission" means the Public Service Commission of Utah.
(4) "Commissioner" means a member of the commission.
(5) (a) "Corporation" includes an association and a joint stock company having any
powers or privileges not possessed by individuals or partnerships.
(b) "Corporation" does not include towns, cities, counties, conservancy districts,
improvement districts, or other governmental units created or organized under any general or
special law of this state.
(6) "Distribution electrical cooperative" includes an electrical corporation that:
(a) is a cooperative;
(b) conducts a business that includes the retail distribution of electricity the cooperative
purchases or generates for the cooperative's members; and
(c) is required to allocate or distribute savings in excess of additions to reserves and
surplus on the basis of patronage to the cooperative's:
(i) members; or

59 (ii) patrons.

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- (7) (a) "Electrical corporation" includes every corporation, cooperative association, and person, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any electric plant, or in any way furnishing electric power for public service or to its consumers or members for domestic, commercial, or industrial use, within this state.
 - (b) "Electrical corporation" does not include:
 - (i) an independent energy producer;
- (ii) where electricity is generated on or distributed by the producer solely for the producer's own use, or the use of the producer's tenants, or the use of members of an association of unit owners formed under Title 57, Chapter 8, Condominium Ownership Act, and not for sale to the public generally;
- (iii) an eligible customer who provides electricity for the eligible customer's own use or the use of the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate; or
 - (iv) a nonutility energy supplier who sells or provides electricity to:
- (A) an eligible customer who has transferred the eligible customer's service to the nonutility energy supplier in accordance with Section 54-3-32; or
 - (B) the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate.
- (c) "Electrical corporation" does not include an entity that sells electric vehicle battery charging services, unless the entity conducts another activity in the state that subjects the entity to the jurisdiction and regulation of the commission as an electrical corporation.
- (8) "Electric plant" includes all real estate, fixtures, and personal property owned, controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate the production, generation, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of electricity for light, heat, or power, and all conduits, ducts, or other devices, materials, apparatus, or property for containing, holding, or carrying conductors used or to be used for the transmission of electricity for light, heat, or power.
 - (9) "Eligible customer" means a person who:
 - (a) on December 31, 2013:
- (i) was a customer of a public utility that, on December 31, 2013, had more than 200,000 retail customers in this state; and
- 88 (ii) owned an electric plant that is an electric generation plant that, on December 31, 89 2013, had a generation name plate capacity of greater than 150 megawatts; and

90	(b) produces electricity:
91	(i) from a qualifying power production facility for sale to a public utility in this state;
92	(ii) primarily for the eligible customer's own use; or
93	(iii) for the use of the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate.
94	(10) "Eligible customer's tenant or affiliate" means one or more tenants or affiliates:
95	(a) of an eligible customer; and
96	(b) who are primarily engaged in an activity:
97	(i) related to the eligible customer's core mining or industrial businesses; and
98	(ii) performed on real property that is:
99	(A) within a 25-mile radius of the electric plant described in Subsection (9)(a)(ii); and
100	(B) owned by, controlled by, or under common control with, the eligible customer.
101	(11) "Gas corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, trustees,
102	and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any gas plant for public service
103	within this state or for the selling or furnishing of natural gas to any consumer or consumers
104	within the state for domestic, commercial, or industrial use, except in the situation that:
105	(a) gas is made or produced on, and distributed by the maker or producer through,
106	private property:
107	(i) solely for the maker's or producer's own use or the use of the maker's or producer's
108	tenants; and
109	(ii) not for sale to others;
110	(b) gas is compressed on private property solely for the owner's own use or the use of
111	the owner's employees as a motor vehicle fuel; or
112	(c) gas is compressed by a retailer of motor vehicle fuel on the retailer's property solely
113	for sale as a motor vehicle fuel.
114	(12) "Gas plant" includes all real estate, fixtures, and personal property owned,
115	controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate the production, generation,
116	transmission, delivery, or furnishing of gas, natural or manufactured, for light, heat, or power.
117	(13) "Heat corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, trustees,
118	and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any heating plant for public service
119	within this state.
120	(14) (a) "Heating plant" includes all real estate, fixtures, machinery, appliances, and

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personal property controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate the production, generation, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of artificial heat.

- (b) "Heating plant" does not include either small power production facilities or cogeneration facilities.
- (15) "Independent energy producer" means every electrical corporation, person, corporation, or government entity, their lessees, trustees, or receivers, that own, operate, control, or manage an independent power production or cogeneration facility.
 - (16) "Independent power production facility" means a facility that:
- (a) produces electric energy solely by the use, as a primary energy source, of biomass, waste, a renewable resource, a geothermal resource, or any combination of the preceding sources; or
 - (b) is a qualifying power production facility.

- (17) "Nonutility energy supplier" means a person that:
- (a) has received market-based rate authority from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in accordance with 16 U.S.C. Sec. 824d, 18 C.F.R. Part 35, Filing of Rate Schedules and Tariffs, or applicable Federal Energy Regulatory Commission orders; or
 - (b) owns, leases, operates, or manages an electric plant that is an electric generation plant that:
 - (i) has a capacity of greater than 100 megawatts; and
 - (ii) is hosted on the site of an eligible customer that consumes the output of the electric plant, in whole or in part, for the eligible customer's own use or the use of the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate.
 - (18) "Private telecommunications system" includes all facilities for the transmission of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, messages, data, or other information of any nature by wire, radio, lightwaves, or other electromagnetic means, excluding mobile radio facilities, that are owned, controlled, operated, or managed by a corporation or person, including their lessees, trustees, receivers, or trustees appointed by any court, for the use of that corporation or person and not for the shared use with or resale to any other corporation or person on a regular basis.
 - (19) (a) "Public utility" includes every railroad corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, distribution electrical cooperative, wholesale electrical cooperative, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewerage corporation, heat corporation,

and independent energy producer not described in [Subsection (19)(d),] Section 54-2-201 where the service is performed for, or the commodity delivered to, the public generally, or in the case of a gas corporation or electrical corporation where the gas or electricity is sold or furnished to any member or consumers within the state for domestic, commercial, or industrial use.

- (b) (i) If any railroad corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewerage corporation, heat corporation, or independent energy producer not described in [Subsection (19)(d)] Section 54-2-201, performs a service for or delivers a commodity to the public, it is considered to be a public utility, subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of the commission and this title.
- (ii) If a gas corporation, independent energy producer not described in [Subsection (19)(d)] Section 54-2-201, or electrical corporation sells or furnishes gas or electricity to any member or consumers within the state, for domestic, commercial, or industrial use, for which any compensation or payment is received, it is considered to be a public utility, subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of the commission and this title.
- (c) Any corporation or person not engaged in business exclusively as a public utility as defined in this section is governed by this title in respect only to the public utility owned, controlled, operated, or managed by the corporation or person, and not in respect to any other business or pursuit.
- [(d) An independent energy producer is exempt from the jurisdiction and regulations of the commission with respect to an independent power production facility if it meets the requirements of Subsection (19)(d)(i), (ii), (iii), or (iv), or any combination of these:]
- [(i) the commodity or service is produced or delivered, or both, by an independent energy producer solely for a use described in Subsections (7)(b)(ii) through (iv) or for the use of state-owned facilities;]
- [(ii) the commodity or service is sold by an independent energy producer solely to an electrical corporation or other wholesale purchaser;]
- [(iii) (A) the commodity or service produced or delivered by the independent energy producer is delivered to an entity that controls, is controlled by, or affiliated with the independent energy producer or to a user located on real property managed or controlled by the independent energy producer; and]

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183	[(B) the real property on which the service or commodity is used is contiguous to real
184	property that is owned or controlled by the independent energy producer or is separated only by
185	a public road or an easement for a public road; or]
186	[(iv) the independent energy producer:]
187	[(A) supplies energy for direct consumption by a customer that is:]
188	[(I) a United States governmental entity, including an entity of the United States
189	military, or a county, municipality, city, town, other political subdivision, local district, special
190	service district, state institution of higher education, school district, charter school, or any
191	entity within the state system of public education; or]
192	[(II) an entity qualifying as a charitable organization under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)
193	operated for religious, charitable, or educational purposes that is exempt from federal income
194	tax and able to demonstrate its tax-exempt status;]
195	[(B) supplies energy to the customer through use of a customer generation system, as
196	defined in Section 54-15-102, for use on the real property where the customer generation
197	system is located;]
198	[(C) supplies energy using a customer generation system designed to supply the lesser
199	of:]
200	[(I) no more than 90% of the average annual consumption of electricity by the
201	customer at that site, based on an annualized billing period; or]
202	[(II) the maximum size allowable under net metering provisions, defined in Section
203	54-15-102;]
204	[(D) notifies the customer before installing the customer generation system of:]
205	[(I) all costs the customer is required to pay for the customer generation system,
206	including any interconnection costs; and]
207	[(II) the potential for future changes in amounts paid by the customer for energy
208	received from the public utility and the possibility of changes to the customer fees or charges to
209	the customer associated with net metering and generation;]
210	[(E) enters into and performs in accordance with an interconnection agreement with a
211	public utility providing retail electric service where the real property on which the customer
212	generation system is located, with the rates, terms, and conditions of the retail service and
213	interconnection agreement subject to approval by the governing authority of the public utility,

214	as defined in Subsection 54-15-102(8); and]
215	[(F) installs the relevant customer generation system by December 31, 2021.]
216	[(e)] (d) Any person or corporation defined as an electrical corporation or public utility
217	under this section may continue to serve its existing customers subject to any order or future
218	determination of the commission in reference to the right to serve those customers.
219	[(f)] (e) (i) "Public utility" does not include any person that is otherwise considered a
220	public utility under this Subsection (19) solely because of that person's ownership of an interest
221	in an electric plant, cogeneration facility, or small power production facility in this state if all of
222	the following conditions are met:
223	(A) the ownership interest in the electric plant, cogeneration facility, or small power
224	production facility is leased to:
225	(I) a public utility, and that lease has been approved by the commission;
226	(II) a person or government entity that is exempt from commission regulation as a
227	public utility; or
228	(III) a combination of Subsections (19)[(f)](e)(i)(A)(I) and (II);
229	(B) the lessor of the ownership interest identified in Subsection $(19)[(f)](e)(i)(A)$ is:
230	(I) primarily engaged in a business other than the business of a public utility; or
231	(II) a person whose total equity or beneficial ownership is held directly or indirectly by
232	another person engaged in a business other than the business of a public utility; and
233	(C) the rent reserved under the lease does not include any amount based on or
234	determined by revenues or income of the lessee.
235	(ii) Any person that is exempt from classification as a public utility under Subsection
236	(19)[(f)](e)(i) shall continue to be so exempt from classification following termination of the
237	lessee's right to possession or use of the electric plant for so long as the former lessor does not
238	operate the electric plant or sell electricity from the electric plant. If the former lessor operates
239	the electric plant or sells electricity, the former lessor shall continue to be so exempt for a
240	period of 90 days following termination, or for a longer period that is ordered by the
241	commission. This period may not exceed one year. A change in rates that would otherwise
242	require commission approval may not be effective during the 90-day or extended period
243	without commission approval.

[(g)] (f) "Public utility" does not include any person that provides financing for, but has

no ownership interest in an electric plant, small power production facility, or cogeneration facility. In the event of a foreclosure in which an ownership interest in an electric plant, small power production facility, or cogeneration facility is transferred to a third-party financer of an electric plant, small power production facility, or cogeneration facility, then that third-party financer is exempt from classification as a public utility for 90 days following the foreclosure, or for a longer period that is ordered by the commission. This period may not exceed one year.

- [(h)] (g) (i) The distribution or transportation of natural gas for use as a motor vehicle fuel does not cause the distributor or transporter to be a "public utility," unless the commission, after notice and a public hearing, determines by rule that it is in the public interest to regulate the distributers or transporters, but the retail sale alone of compressed natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel may not cause the seller to be a "public utility."
- (ii) In determining whether it is in the public interest to regulate the distributors or transporters, the commission shall consider, among other things, the impact of the regulation on the availability and price of natural gas for use as a motor fuel.
 - [(i)] (h) "Public utility" does not include:
- (i) an eligible customer who provides electricity for the eligible customer's own use or the use of the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate; or
 - (ii) a nonutility energy supplier that sells or provides electricity to:
- (A) an eligible customer who has transferred the eligible customer's service to the nonutility energy supplier in accordance with Section 54-3-32; or
 - (B) the eligible customer's tenant or affiliate.
- [(j)] (i) "Public utility" does not include an entity that sells electric vehicle battery charging services, unless the entity conducts another activity in the state that subjects the entity to the jurisdiction and regulation of the commission as a public utility.
- (j) "Public utility" does not include an independent energy producer that is not subject to regulation by the commission as a public utility under Section 54-2-201.
- (20) "Purchasing utility" means any electrical corporation that is required to purchase electricity from small power production or cogeneration facilities pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, 16 U.S.C. [Section] Sec. 824a-3.
- (21) "Qualifying power producer" means a corporation, cooperative association, or person, or the lessee, trustee, and receiver of the corporation, cooperative association, or

person, who owns, controls, operates, or manages any qualifying power production facility or cogeneration facility.

(22) "Qualifying power production facility" means a facility that:

- (a) produces electrical energy solely by the use, as a primary energy source, of biomass, waste, a renewable resource, a geothermal resource, or any combination of the preceding sources;
- (b) has a power production capacity that, together with any other facilities located at the same site, is no greater than 80 megawatts; and
 - (c) is a qualifying small power production facility under federal law.
- (23) "Railroad" includes every commercial, interurban, and other railway, other than a street railway, and each branch or extension of a railway, by any power operated, together with all tracks, bridges, trestles, rights-of-way, subways, tunnels, stations, depots, union depots, yards, grounds, terminals, terminal facilities, structures, and equipment, and all other real estate, fixtures, and personal property of every kind used in connection with a railway owned, controlled, operated, or managed for public service in the transportation of persons or property.
- (24) "Railroad corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any railroad for public service within this state.
- (25) (a) "Sewerage corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any sewerage system for public service within this state.
- (b) "Sewerage corporation" does not include private sewerage companies engaged in disposing of sewage only for their stockholders, or towns, cities, counties, conservancy districts, improvement districts, or other governmental units created or organized under any general or special law of this state.
- (26) "Telegraph corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any telegraph line for public service within this state.
- (27) "Telegraph line" includes all conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables, instruments, and appliances, and all other real estate, fixtures, and personal property owned, controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate communication by telegraph, whether

that communication be had with or without the use of transmission wires.

- (28) (a) "Telephone corporation" means any corporation or person, and their lessees, trustee, receivers, or trustees appointed by any court, who owns, controls, operates, manages, or resells a public telecommunications service as defined in Section 54-8b-2.
- (b) "Telephone corporation" does not mean a corporation, partnership, or firm providing:
- (i) intrastate telephone service offered by a provider of cellular, personal communication systems (PCS), or other commercial mobile radio service as defined in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 332 that has been issued a covering license by the Federal Communications Commission;
 - (ii) Internet service; or
 - (iii) resold intrastate toll service.
- (29) "Telephone line" includes all conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables, instruments, and appliances, and all other real estate, fixtures, and personal property owned, controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate communication by telephone whether that communication is had with or without the use of transmission wires.
- (30) "Transportation of persons" includes every service in connection with or incidental to the safety, comfort, or convenience of the person transported, and the receipt, carriage, and delivery of that person and that person's baggage.
- (31) "Transportation of property" includes every service in connection with or incidental to the transportation of property, including in particular its receipt, delivery, elevation, transfer, switching, carriage, ventilation, refrigeration, icing, dunnage, storage, and hauling, and the transmission of credit by express companies.
- (32) "Water corporation" includes every corporation and person, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any water system for public service within this state. It does not include private irrigation companies engaged in distributing water only to their stockholders, or towns, cities, counties, water conservancy districts, improvement districts, or other governmental units created or organized under any general or special law of this state.
- (33) (a) "Water system" includes all reservoirs, tunnels, shafts, dams, dikes, headgates, pipes, flumes, canals, structures, and appliances, and all other real estate, fixtures, and personal

338	property owned, controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate the
339	diversion, development, storage, supply, distribution, sale, furnishing, carriage, appointment,
340	apportionment, or measurement of water for power, fire protection, irrigation, reclamation, or
341	manufacturing, or for municipal, domestic, or other beneficial use.
342	(b) "Water system" does not include private irrigation companies engaged in
343	distributing water only to their stockholders.
344	(34) "Wholesale electrical cooperative" includes every electrical corporation that is:
345	(a) in the business of the wholesale distribution of electricity it has purchased or
346	generated to its members and the public; and
347	(b) required to distribute or allocate savings in excess of additions to reserves and
348	surplus to members or patrons on the basis of patronage.
349	Section 2. Section 54-2-201 is enacted to read:
350	Part 2. Exemption from Commission Jurisdiction
351	54-2-201. Independent energy producer Exemption from commission
352	jurisdiction.
353	(1) As used in this section:
354	(a) "Customer generation system" means the same as that term is defined in Section
355	<u>54-15-102.</u>
356	(b) "Net metering program" means the same as that term is defined in Section
357	<u>54-15-102.</u>
358	(2) An independent energy producer is exempt from regulation by the commission as a
359	public utility for an independent power production facility if the independent energy producer
360	produces a commodity or delivers a service:
361	(a) solely for the use of a state-owned facility;
362	(b) not for sale to the public, without charge, solely for the use of:
363	(i) the independent energy producer;
364	(ii) an independent energy producer's tenant; or
365	(iii) an association of unit owners formed under Title 57, Chapter 8, Condominium
366	Ownership Act;
367	(c) for sale solely to an electrical corporation or other wholesale purchaser;
368	(d) (i) for use by:

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369	(A) an entity the independent energy producer controls, is controlled by, or is an
370	affiliate of; or
371	(B) a user located on real property that the independent energy producer manages or
372	controls; and
373	(ii) for use on real property that is contiguous to, or is separated only by a public road
374	or easement from, real property that the independent energy producer owns or controls; or
375	(e) to a customer in an area served by an entity that is not regulated by the commission.
376	(3) In addition to the exemptions described in Subsection (2), an independent energy
377	producer that supplies energy, for direct consumption by a customer, via a customer generation
378	system, is exempt from regulation by the commission as a public utility for an independent
379	power production facility if:
380	(a) the customer is:
381	(i) a United States governmental entity, including an entity of the United States
382	military;
383	(ii) a state entity, including a political subdivision of the state;
384	(iii) a state institution of higher education;
385	(iv) a school district, charter school, or an entity within the state system of public
386	education;
387	(v) a federal income tax exempt charitable organization under U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)
388	that can provide proof of the entity's tax-exempt status; or
389	(vi) a residential customer participating in a net metering program in an area served by
390	an electrical corporation with more than 200,000 retail customers in the state;
391	(b) the customer generation system is:
392	(i) for use on the real property where the customer generation system is located; and
393	(ii) designed to supply a maximum amount of electricity equal to the lesser of:
394	(A) 90% of the customer's average annual electricity consumption, based on an
395	annualized billing period; or
396	(B) the maximum amount allowed under a net metering program, as defined in Section
397	<u>54-15-102;</u>
398	(c) the independent energy producer notifies the customer, before installing the
399	customer generation system, of:

400	(i) the total cost a customer is required to pay for the customer generation system,
401	including an interconnection cost; and
402	(ii) the potential for a change in:
403	(A) the amount the customer pays for energy from a public utility; and
404	(B) customer fees associated with net metering and generation;
405	(d) the independent energy producer enters into an interconnection agreement:
406	(i) with a public utility that provides retail electric service to the real property on which
407	the customer generation system is located; and
408	(ii) that is subject to approval by a public utility's governing authority; and
409	(e) except for a customer described in Subsection (3)(a)(vi), the independent energy
410	producer installs the customer generation system by December 31, 2021.
411	(4) An independent energy producer that supplies electric service to a customer
412	described in Subsection (3)(a)(vi) via a customer generation system shall provide the electric
413	service under an agreement that includes:
414	(a) the notification described in Subsection (3)(c);
415	(b) a description of the incentives, including any renewable energy certificate,
416	generated by the agreement, or by the installation or use of the customer generation system;
417	(c) a description of an incentive described in Subsection (4)(b) that the customer
418	forfeits or assigns to the independent energy producer under the agreement;
419	(d) the property, equipment, or liability that the independent energy producer will
420	insure under the agreement, and what property, equipment, or liability that the customer is
421	responsible for insuring; and
422	(e) the Internet address of a Division of Public Utilities website, if any, that describes
423	considerations for a net metering customer.
424	(5) An independent energy producer may not provide electric service to a customer
425	described in Subsection (3)(a)(vi) until the commission makes the final determination required
426	by Section 54-15-105.1.
427	(6) A public utility shall serve a customer in the public utility's service area that is
428	partially served by an independent energy producer.
429	Section 3. Section 54-15-108 is amended to read:
430	54-15-108. Damages and fines for connecting a customer generation system to

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more than one customer.
If an independent energy producer [defined in Section 54-2-1] that is supplying energy
to a customer [as described in Subsection 54-2-1(19)(d)(iv)] described in Subsection
54-2-201(3)(a) violates the [limitations set forth in Subsection 54-2-1(19)(d)(iv)(B)] limitation
described in Subsection 54-2-201(3)(b)(i), the commission may:
(1) award damages to an electrical corporation for actual and consequential damages to
the electrical corporation; and
(2) assess a fine against the independent energy producer or person responsible for the
violation.

Legislative Review Note Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel