

USOA - Electric  
Definitions

current operation and against which the utility is not protected by insurance. Among the causes to be given consideration are wear and tear, decay, action of the elements, inadequacy, obsolescence, changes in the art, changes in demand and requirements of public authorities.

13. *Discount*, as applied to the securities issued or assumed by the utility, means the excess of the par (stated value of no-par stocks) or face value of the securities plus interest or dividends accrued at the date of the sale over the cash value of the consideration received from their sale.

14. *Investment advances* means advances, represented by notes or by book accounts only, with respect to which it is mutually agreed or intended between the creditor and debtor that they shall be settled by the issuance of securities or shall not be subject to current settlement.

15. *Lease, capital* means a lease of property used in utility or nonutility operations, which meets one or more of the criteria stated in General Instruction 19.

16. *Lease, operating* means a lease of property used in utility or nonutility operations, which does not meet any of the criteria stated in General Instruction 19.

17. *Licensee* means any person, or State, licensed under the provisions of the Federal Power Act and subject to the Commission's accounting requirements under the terms of the license.

18. *Minor items of property* means the associated parts or items of which retirement units are composed.

19. *Net salvage value* means the salvage value of property retired less the cost of removal.

20. *Nominally issued*, as applied to securities issued or assumed by the utility, means those which have been signed, certified, or otherwise executed, and placed with the proper officer for sale and delivery, or pledged, or otherwise placed in some special fund of the utility, but which have not been sold, or issued direct to trustees of sinking funds in accordance with contractual requirements.

21. *Nominally outstanding*, as applied to securities issued or assumed by the utility, means those which, after being actually issued, have been reacquired by or for the utility under circumstances which require them to be

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considered as held alive and not retired, provided, however, that

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securities held by trustees shall be considered as actually outstanding.

22. *Nonproject property* means the electric plant of a licensee which is not a part of the project property subject to a license issued by the Commission.

23. *Original cost*, as applied to electric plant, means the cost of such property to the person first devoting it to public service.

24. *Person* means an individual, a corporation, a partnership, an association, a joint stock company, a business trust, or any organized group of persons, whether incorporated or not, or any receiver or trustee.

25. *Premium*, as applied to securities issued or assumed by the utility, means the excess of the cash value of the consideration received from their sale over the sum of their par (stated value of no-par stocks) or face value and interest or dividends accrued at the date of sale.

26. *Project* means complete unit of improvement or development, consisting of a power house, all water conduits, all dams and appurtenant works and structures (including navigation structures) which are a part of said unit, and all storage, diverting, or forebay reservoirs directly connected therewith, the primary line or lines transmitting power therefrom to the point of junction with the distribution system or with the interconnected primary transmission system, all miscellaneous structures used and useful in connection with said unit or any part thereof, and all water rights, rights of way, ditches, dams, reservoirs, lands, or interest in lands the use and occupancy of which are necessary or appropriate in the maintenance and operation of such unit.

27. *Project property* means the property described in and subject to a license issued by the Commission.

28. *Property retired*, as applied to electric plant, means property which has been removed, sold, abandoned, destroyed, or which for any cause has been withdrawn from service.

29. *Public utility* means any person who owns or operates facilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the Federal Power Act. (See section 201(e) of said act.)

30. *Regulatory Assets and Liabilities* are assets and liabilities that result from rate actions of regulatory agencies. Regulatory assets and liabilities arise from specific revenues, expenses, gains, or losses that would have been included in net income determination in one period under the general requirements of the Uniform System of Accounts but for it being probable:

A. that such items will be included in a different period(s) for purposes of developing the rates the utility is authorized to charge for its utility services; or

B. in the case of regulatory liabilities, that refunds to customers, not provided for in other accounts, will be required.

31. A. *Replacing or replacement*, when not otherwise indicated in the context, means the construction or installation of electric plant in place of property retired, together with the removal of the property retired.

B. *Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&D)* in the case of Major utilities means expenditures incurred by public utilities and licensees either directly or through another person or organization (such as research institute, industry association, foundation, university, engineering company or similar contractor) in pursuing research, development, and demonstration activities including experiment, design, installation, construction, or operation. This definition includes expenditures for the implementation or development of new and/or existing concepts until technically feasible and commercially feasible operations are verified. Such research, development, and demonstration costs should be reasonably related to the existing or future utility business, broadly defined, of the public utility or licensee or in the environment in which it operates or expects to operate. The term includes, but is not limited to: All such costs incidental to the design, development or implementation of an experimental facility, a plant process, a product, a formula, an invention, a system or similar items, and the improvement of already existing items of a like nature; amounts expended in connection

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with the proposed development and/or proposed delivery of alternate sources of electricity; and the costs of obtaining its own patent, such as attorney's fees expended in making and perfecting a patent application. The term includes preliminary investigations and detailed planning of specific projects for securing for customers non-conventional electric power supplies that rely on technology that has not been verified previously to be feasible. The term does not include expenditures for efficiency surveys; studies of management, management techniques and organization; consumer surveys, advertising, promotions, or items of a like nature.

32. *Retained Earnings* (formerly earned surplus) means the

accumulated net income of the utility less distribution to stockholders and transfers to other capital accounts.

33. *Retirement units* means those items of electric plant which, when retired, with or without replacement, are accounted for by crediting the book cost thereof to the electric plant account in which included.

34. *Salvage value* means the amount received for property retired, less any expenses incurred in connection with the sale or in preparing the property for sale; or, if retained, the amount at which the material recoverable is chargeable to materials and supplies, or other appropriate account.

35. *Service life* means the time between the date electric plant is includible in electric plant in service, or electric plant leased to others, and the date of its retirement. If depreciation is accounted for on a production basis rather than on a time basis, then service life should be measured in terms of the appropriate unit of production.

36. *Service value* means the difference between original cost and net salvage value of electric plant.

37. *State* means a State admitted to the Union, the District of Columbia, and any organized Territory of the United States.

38. *Subsidiary Company* in the case of Major utilities means a company which is controlled by the utility through ownership of voting stock. (See Definitions item 5B, Control). A corporate joint venture in which a corporation is owned by a small group of businesses as a separate and specific business or project for the mutual benefit of the members of the group is a subsidiary company for the purposes of this system of accounts.

39. *Utility*, as used herein and when not otherwise indicated in the context, means any public utility or licensee to which this system of accounts is applicable.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. *Classification of utilities.*

A. For purpose of applying the system of accounts prescribed by the Commission, electric utilities and licensees are divided into classes, as follows:

(1) *Major*. Utilities and licensees that had, in each of the last three consecutive years, sales or transmission service that exceeded any one or more of the following:

- (a) One million megawatt-hours of total sales;
- (b) 100 megawatt-hours of sales for resale;

(c) 500 megawatt-hours of power exchanges delivered; or  
(d) 500 megawatt-hours of wheeling for others (deliveries plus losses).

(2) *Nonmajor*. Utilities and licensees that are not classified as Major (as defined above), and had total sales in each of the last three consecutive years of 10,000 megawatt-hours or more.

B. This system applies to both Major and Nonmajor utilities and licensees. Provisions have been incorporated into this system for those entities which, prior to January 1, 1984, were applying the Commission's Uniform System of Accounts Prescribed for Public Utilities and Licensees subject to the Provisions of the Federal Power Act (Class C and Class D) [part 104 of this chapter, now revoked]. The notations (Nonmajor) and (Major) have been used to indicate those instructions and accounts from previous systems and classifications, which by definition, are not interchangeable without causing a loss of detail for the Major (previously Class A and Class B) or an increase in detail burden on the Nonmajor (previously Class C and Class D).

C. The class to which any utility or licensee belongs will originally be determined by its annual megawatt hours

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in each of the last three consecutive years, or in the case of a newly established entity, the projected data shall be the basis. Subsequent changes in classification shall be made as necessary when the megawatt-hours for each of the three immediately preceding years shall exceed the upper limit, or be less than the lower limit of the classification previously applicable to the utility.

D. Any utility may, at its option, adopt the system of accounts prescribed by the Commission for any larger class of utilities.

## 2. *Records*.

A. Each utility shall keep its books of account, and all other books, records, and memoranda which support the entries in such books of account so as to be able to furnish readily full information as to any item included in any account. Each entry shall be supported by such detailed information as will permit ready identification, analysis, and verification of all facts relevant thereto.

B. The books and records referred to herein include not only accounting records in a limited technical sense, but all other records, such as minute books, stock books, reports, correspondence, memoranda,