

**Law No. (6) of 2015**  
**Concerning Protection of the Public**  
**Electricity and Water Network in the Emirate of Dubai<sup>1</sup>**

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**We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,**

After perusal of:

Federal Law No. (3) of 1987 Issuing the Penal Code and its amendments;

Law No. (2) of 1994 Concerning Protection of the Public Electricity and Water Network;

Law No. (3) of 2003 Establishing the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai;

Law No. (9) of 2004 Establishing the Dubai International Financial Centre and its amendments;

Decree No. (1) of 1992 Establishing the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority and its amendments;

Decree No. (22) of 2009 Concerning Special Development Zones in the Emirate of Dubai;

Regulation No. (4) of 2009 Regulating Work in the Right of Way in the Emirate of Dubai and its Implementing Bylaw; and

The legislation regulating free zones in the Emirate of Dubai,

**Do hereby issue this Law.**

**Definitions**

**Article (1)**

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Executive Council:	The Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai.
DEWA:	The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority.
CEO:	The chief executive officer of DEWA.

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<sup>1</sup>*Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict the Arabic text will prevail.*

Public Network:	All stations, machinery, equipment, systems, and Service Lines and their appurtenances, which are owned or managed by DEWA, including the Telecommunication Network.
Telecommunication Network:	All cables, wired and wireless stations, and other equipment and machinery used in the telecommunications of DEWA.
Service Lines:	Land, marine, and aerial water and electricity transmission and distribution lines and their appurtenances, which are owned or managed by DEWA.
Authorisation:	A document issued by DEWA that authorises an Authorisation Holder to perform works or conduct activities near the Public Network or Service Lines which may be negatively affected by such works or activities.
Authorisation Holder:	A Person who holds an Authorisation.
Person:	A public or private natural or legal person.
Competent Entities:	Government entities responsible for planning and survey, buildings, roads, and other infrastructure services in the Emirate.

### **Scope of Application**

#### **Article (2)**

This Law applies to all zones of the Emirate including Special Development Zones, and free zones such as the Dubai International Financial Centre.

### **Objectives of the Law**

#### **Article (3)**

This Law aims to:

1. protect the infrastructure of the electricity and water sector of the Emirate from any potential damage;
2. maintain the readiness of the Public Network to meet electricity and water demand;
3. ensure high quality of the electricity and water services provided by DEWA; and
4. ensure that uninterrupted electricity and water services are provided to DEWA customers.

### **Functions of DEWA**

#### **Article (4)**

For the purposes of achieving the objectives of this Law, DEWA will have the duties and powers to:

1. take the necessary action and measures to protect the Public Network of the Emirate;
2. issue Authorisations in accordance with the rules, terms, and procedures stipulated in this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and the legislation in force in the Emirate;
3. develop a green and black point system for Authorisation Holders, and determine the criteria and conditions of allocating these points, and the benefits or punitive measures prescribed for accrual of such points;
4. monitor compliance with this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and the compliance of Authorisation Holders with the terms of their Authorisations;
5. receive reports of any infringements relating to the Public Network, and, in coordination with concerned entities, take appropriate action in respect of such infringements where required;
6. develop the standards required for estimating any damage sustained by the Public Network as a result of infringements by third parties; and
7. perform any other duties required for the protection of the Public Network.

### **Issuing Authorisations**

#### **Article (5)**

- a. No Person may perform any work or activity which may negatively affect the Public Network without first obtaining the relevant Authorisation from DEWA. This Authorisation will be issued in accordance with the terms and rules prescribed by DEWA in this respect.
- b. A Competent Entity may, in emergency cases, perform any of the works and activities referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article without first obtaining the relevant Authorisation from DEWA, provided that such entity notifies and coordinates with DEWA before commencing the works or activities, and that it submits an application for Authorisation within a maximum of twenty-four (24) hours from the commencement of such works.
- c. Any excavation, construction, demolition, paving, or maintenance works performed in any roads, public squares, zones, or districts which DEWA decides to provide with its services must be performed in accordance with the work plan and schedule prescribed by DEWA in coordination with Competent Entities, and in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate.
- d. No Competent Entity may authorise the construction of any structures or pipelines or performance of any other works which may negatively affect the Public Network without first obtaining the relevant approval of DEWA. Such approval will be issued in accordance with the terms and procedures prescribed by DEWA in this respect.

**Obligations of an Authorisation Holder**  
**Article (6)**

An Authorisation Holder must:

1. comply with the terms of his Authorisation;
2. keep his Authorisation on the work site;
3. appoint a specialised Person to supervise the works performed on the work site, who must be available throughout the work period; and
4. notify DEWA of the work schedule forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of levelling works or of actual works on the site;
5. take all necessary actions and measures to ensure the protection and safety of the Public Network in accordance with the standards approved by DEWA, and must in particular:
  - a. supply a cable detector on the work site;
  - b. commence work in the site only after conducting the drilling tests prescribed by DEWA;
  - c. install temporary information signs indicating cable and water pipeline routes; and
  - d. in coordination with Competent Entities, divert or protect Service Lines buried underneath roads or pavements in accordance with his Authorisation.
6. perform works on site in accordance with the work plan and schedule approved by DEWA;
7. during work on the site, observe the time frames prescribed in his Authorisation;
8. not cause damage or compromise the safety of the Public Network;
9. promptly notify DEWA where his works intersect with the Public Network, and where any damage is sustained by the Public Network; and refrain from performing any works until competent DEWA employees determine the action that must be taken and the works that must be performed;
10. remedy any violation committed by him, within the grace period prescribed by DEWA; and
11. perform any other obligations determined pursuant to the resolutions issued by DEWA in this respect.

**Obligations of Owners and Occupants of Real Property**  
**Article (7)**

All owners, occupants, and possessors of real property located in the zones which DEWA decides to provide with electricity and water services, or through which DEWA decides to lay down Service Lines, must:

1. allow the lay-down and passage of Service Lines above, underneath, or through the real property in the manner DEWA approves in this respect, provided that such lay-down or passage does not negatively affect the use of the real property, or cause the owner, occupant, or possessor of the real property to incur any relevant cost;
2. allow DEWA or its authorised representatives access to their real property to conduct check-ups and inspect internal equipment and installations in accordance with the standards approved by DEWA in this respect;
3. not conduct any work that may negatively affect the Public Network, or any other tools, connections, or equipment relating to the electricity and water services provided by DEWA. Where a need arises to connect or disconnect electricity or water at the real property, DEWA must be notified of the same in advance to enable its competent employees to deal with the case;
4. comply with the terms and requirements determined by DEWA to protect Service Lines;
5. obtain an Authorisation in advance from DEWA where they intend to make changes to their real property, which may affect power loads and the Public Network; and
6. perform any other obligations determined pursuant to the resolutions issued by DEWA in this respect.

**Prohibited Acts**  
**Article (8)**

No Person may perform any act which may cause damage in any manner whatsoever to the Public Network or to the property of DEWA, or illegally exploit the Public Network or DEWA property. In particular such Person may not:

1. steal electric current, water, or any of the property and assets pertaining to the Public Network;
2. cause damage to any of the property or assets pertaining to the Public Network, including cutting, stripping, or using electrical cables or water pipes;
3. stop vehicles in the area underneath overhead power lines, in the area adjacent to ground cables and to water pipes, and in front of entrances of power stations and substations where stopping is prohibited;

4. tamper with cables, overhead power lines, or water pipes; or divert them without obtaining a prior permission from DEWA;
5. store materials, or throw or heap waste in the area adjacent to electrical services or water pipes;
6. construct makeshift rooms or foundations, or any obstructing structures, in the area adjacent to electrical services or water pipes;
7. use vehicles or cranes whose height exceeds the authorised limit in the work site, or drive such vehicles or cranes underneath overhead power lines where traffic is prohibited;
8. cause damage to cable route markers or any markers placed in the area adjacent to water pipes;
9. unearth ground bases and wires of overhead power lines;
10. use non-authorised vehicles or machinery near Service Lines;
11. install any equipment or connections between the DEWA water meter and the water tank;
12. affix stickers or advertisements to DEWA property without obtaining a prior permission ; or
13. enter any of the DEWA stations without a prior permission.

**Fees**  
**Article (9)**

In return for issuing Authorisations and providing services under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, DEWA will charge the fees prescribed by a resolution of the Chairman of the Executive Council.

**Penalties**  
**Article (10)**

- a. Without prejudice to any stricter penalty stipulated in any other legislation, any Person who steals in any manner whatsoever electricity, water, or the property or assets pertaining to the Public Network will be punished by imprisonment for not less than three (3) months or a fine of not less than ten thousand Dirhams (AED 10,000.00), or by both penalties.
- b. A Person who commits any of the violations stipulated in the Schedule attached to this Law will be punished by the fine indicated opposite that violation.
- c. The amount of the fine mentioned in paragraph (b) of this Article will be doubled upon repetition of the same violation within one (1) year from the date of the previous violation. A doubled fine must not exceed one hundred thousand Dirhams (AED 100,000.00).

- d. In addition to the penalty of a fine prescribed in paragraph (b) of this Article, the CEO or his authorised representative may take one or more of the following measures against the violator:
1. suspension of work for a period not exceeding six (6) months;
  2. revocation of Authorisation; and/or
  3. deprivation from obtaining a new Authorisation for a period prescribed by DEWA.
- e. The CEO or his authorised representative may, in accordance with the rules determined by the CEO in this respect, conclude a settlement in respect of the fine imposed on the violator.
- f. Imposing the penalties stipulated in this Article will not preclude DEWA from requiring a violator to pay the value of the amount of electricity or water stolen by him or lost as a result of his act.

### **Law Enforcement**

#### **Article (11)**

DEWA employees nominated by a resolution of the CEO will have the capacity of law enforcement officers to record the acts committed in breach of the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof. For this purpose, they may issue the necessary violation reports and seek the assistance of police personnel.

### **Remedies and Compensation**

#### **Article (12)**

Without prejudice to the penalties prescribed by this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, a Person who causes damage to the Public Network must compensate DEWA for such damage. The amount of compensation will be determined by DEWA and will include an additional ten percent (10%) of the amount of the compensation as administrative charges. The estimation of such compensation by DEWA will be final.

### **Grievance**

#### **Article (13)**

Any affected party may submit a written grievance to the CEO against any decision, procedure, or measure taken against him under this Law, within thirty (30) days of being notified of the contested decision, procedure, or measure. The grievance will be determined, within thirty (30) days from the date of its submission, by a committee formed by the CEO for this purpose, and the decision issued in respect of the grievance will be final.

### **Payment of Fees and Fines**

#### **Article (14)**

Fees, fines, and compensation collected pursuant to this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof will be paid to DEWA.

### **Issuing the Implementing Resolutions**

#### **Article (15)**

The Chairman of the Executive Council will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

### **Repeals**

#### **Article (16)**

The above-mentioned Law No. (2) of 1994 is hereby repealed. Any provision in any other legislation will also be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

### **Publication and Commencement**

#### **Article (17)**

This Law will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published.

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

**Ruler of Dubai**

Issued in Dubai on 11 April 2015

Corresponding to 22 Jumada al-Thaniyah 1436 A.H.

**Schedule  
Violations and Fines**

<b>SN</b>	<b>Description of Violation</b>	<b>Fine (in Dirhams)</b>
1	Performing any act or conducting any activity near the Public Network without obtaining an Authorisation from DEWA, or with an expired Authorisation	10,000.00
2	Performing, in a breach of the work plan and schedule prescribed by DEWA, any act in any zone which DEWA decides to provide with its services	10,000.00
3	Failure by an Authorisation Holder to comply with the terms of his Authorisation	10,000.00
4	Failure by an Authorisation Holder to keep the Authorisation on the work site	5,000.00
5	Failure by an Authorisation Holder to appoint a specialised Person to supervise the works performed on the work site, or failure of such Person to be available on the site throughout the period of work	5,000.00
6	Commencement by an Authorisation Holder of levelling works or of actual works on the site without notifying DEWA of the work schedule or without observing the required forty-eight (48) hour notice period	5,000.00
7	Failure by an Authorisation Holder to take all necessary actions and measures to protect and maintain the safety of the Public Network in accordance with the relevant standards approved by DEWA	5,000.00
8	Performance by an Authorisation Holder of his works on the site in contrary to the work plan and schedule approved by DEWA	5,000.00
9	Causing damage or compromising the safety of the Public Network	AED 10,000.00, plus payment of compensation to DEWA for the damage caused
10	Failure to promptly notify DEWA where the works of an Authorisation Holder intersect with the Public Network, or where any damage is caused to the Public Network	5,000.00

11	Failure by a violator to remedy his violation within the grace period prescribed by DEWA	5,000.00
12	Failure to supply a cable detector on the work site	5,000.00
13	Commencing work on the site before conducting the drilling tests prescribed by DEWA	5,000.00
14	Failure to install temporary information signs on the work site indicating cable and water pipeline routes	5,000.00
15	Breach of the obligations prescribed under Article (7) of this Law by owners or occupants of real property located in zones where DEWA decides to provide its services	5,000.00
16	Performing any of the prohibited acts stipulated in Article (8) of this Law	10,000.00
17	Failure to implement a work suspension order issued by DEWA or by any of its competent employees	10,000.00
18	Obstructing the work of DEWA employees or any Person authorised by DEWA to perform inspections	10,000.00
19	Performing any act, other than the violations stated in this Schedule, in breach of the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof	3,000.00