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OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill would amend the *National Petroleum Corporation Act, Cap. 280* in order to make better provision for the rates which are charged for a supply of natural gas and for related matters.

Arrangement of Sections

1. Short title
2. Amendment of section 2 of Cap. 280
3. Amendment of section 21 of Cap. 280

BARBADOS

A Bill entitled

An Act to amend the *National Petroleum Corporation Act* in order to make better provision for the rates which are charged for a supply of natural gas and for related matters.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Barbados as follows:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *National Petroleum Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2017*.

Amendment of section 2 of Cap. 280

2. *Section 2 of the National Petroleum Corporation Act, Cap. 280, in this Act referred to as the principal Act, is amended by*

(a) *deleting the definition of the term “petroleum” and substituting the following:*

““petroleum” means any of the following, other than coal:

- (a) mineral oil and bituminous shales;
- (b) deposits, not mentioned in paragraph (a), from which oil can be extracted by destructive distillation;
- (c) natural gas; or
- (d) hydrocarbons, other than natural gas, which are related to mineral oil and are not mentioned in paragraphs (a) or (b);” and

(b) *inserting the following definition in the appropriate alphabetical order:*

““natural gas” means any naturally occurring mixture of hydrocarbons and hydrocarbon compounds

- (a) consisting primarily of methane; and
- (b) existing in a gaseous state;”.

Amendment of section 21 of Cap. 280

3. *Section 21 of the principal Act is deleted and the following is substituted:*

“Regulations

21.(1) The Minister may make Regulations

(a) prescribing the

- (i) fees to be paid for the installation, connection, examination or inspection of a meter, a natural gas pipeline or natural gas supply line to any premises; or**
- (ii) rates to be paid for the supply of natural gas to residential premises, commercial premises, industrial premises or any other premises;**

(b) for the installation, maintenance, inspection and examination of natural gas pipelines on any premises;

(c) for the installation, maintenance, inspection and examination of natural gas pipelines generally; or

(d) generally to give effect to the purposes of the Act.

(2) Where Regulations made under subsection (1) create an offence, those Regulations shall provide for that offence to be tried summarily and may prescribe a penalty of a fine not exceeding \$1 000, or to imprisonment for a term of 12 months or to both.”