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A FUNCTIONAL LEGAL DESIGN FOR RELIABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

HOW TECHNOLOGY AFFECTS LAW

Hamilcar P.A. Knops

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PREFACE

It all started with a simple idea: electricity is 'different' and how does that affect law? That brief thought turned out to be the start of an interesting journey through the world of energy and law. A journey on which I encountered many interesting topics, which brought me to many different places, and during which many people helped me.

This Ph.D. research was made possible through a grant of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). The research has been carried out as a joint project of Leiden University (Faculty of Law) and Delft University of Technology (Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management). In Leiden, the research was part of the research programme 'Securing the rule of law in a world of multilevel jurisdiction'. In Delft, this study fits in the 'Next Generation Infrastructures' programme. Following the spirit of the *joint* project, this preface is written in accordance with the Leiden tradition, although the defence of this Ph.D. thesis takes place in Delft.

My first steps in energy law I made at the International Institute of Energy Law in Leiden. I am grateful to my colleagues of that time: Eugene Cross for introducing me into electricity law and Martha Roggenkamp for all the opportunities she has provided me over the years. Further I want to thank my colleagues of the *Europa Instituut* in Leiden.

After having studied in Leiden, Delft was a new environment to me. Fortunately, my nice colleagues of the Energy and Industry section made me feel at home there. Moreover, I would more specifically like to thank my 'electricity colleagues' Viren Ajodhia, François Boisseleau, Hanneke de Jong, Laurens de Vries and Ype Wijnia for being such a good interdisciplinary team and such good company at the various conferences. I am also grateful to Paulien Herder for introducing me to the world of engineering design. I also have to thank Anish Patil for always providing me the opportunity of some 'transition' from energy law to the laws of cricket.

Since 2005 I also work for the *Wetenschappelijk Instituut voor het CDA (WI)*. I am grateful for the way in which the WI facilitated my effort of completing this thesis. Moreover, the moral support I received from my colleagues has been invaluable.

This thesis has occupied me for quite some time. During the year 2007, the manuscript of the thesis has accompanied me virtually everywhere, so that my journey-in-energy-law itself has completed its own journey around the world. In particular the last year I was so occupied with the thesis project that I could not pay as much attention to my friends as I would have liked to do. Now the thesis is done, it is time to catch up, I promise.

I should also thank my former and current *huisgenoten* (roommates) of the Morsweg. During all the years of my research our 'Mors' has remained my home. It has been nice to share our lives and to learn from each other. Two of them deserve special mention for their contribution to this thesis: Mark Dingemanse for making most of the illustrations and Steven Tijms for helping me with a certain proposition...

As I wrote above, on my journey in the world of energy law I came across many challenging and topical questions in that field, many of which lie outside the scope of this thesis. As a side effect, this thesis waited a while for completion. Eventually, however, the original destination has been reached: the brief question of 'how the technology of electricity affects law' has finally resulted in this—elaborate—thesis. Completing this thesis would have been impossible without the support of my parents, upon whom I could count under all circumstances, and Catherine Chiong Meza, whose help with the transformation of—literally—a *manuscript* to an electronic document has been invaluable and who herself made me realise that there *is* a life after the Ph.D. thesis.

Hamilcar Knops
December 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES