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Colombian Telecommunication Base Station Wind Power Regulations



Overview

In April 2024, the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Colombia (MME - Colombia) published updated requirements for the new Technical Regulation for Electrical Installations (RETIE) with impactful changes to adapt it to national and international standards as well as the latest market technologies, such as wind turbines, PV modules and inverters, and electric vehicle (EV) battery chargers. How can wind and solar energy be used in Colombia?

The expected large deployment of wind and solar resources in Colombia can be used to leverage creation of local employment, gender equality and benefits to local communities and Indigenous peoples. This will require strengthened policy frameworks to avoid negative effects on these areas.

Are Colombia's wind energy plans stalling?

(AP Photo/Ivan Valencia, File) BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's ambitious plans for wind energy development, especially in the resource-rich La Guajira region, are facing serious setbacks as major companies pull out and projects stall, industry experts say.

How much wind power does Colombia have?

Colombia's rich wind and solar energy potential is estimated at 30 GW and 32 GW, respectively, according to SER Colombia, which is more than Colombia's current installed capacity of 18.8 GW. Of particular interest is La Guajira region, with world-class wind resources (average wind speeds of 9.8 m/s) and 18 GW of Colombia's wind power potential.

Did Colombia start a wind farm without a regulatory framework?

Diego Patron, manager of the Jemeiwa Ka'I wind project, a large-scale wind farm cluster in La Guajira, acknowledged the pioneering nature of Colombia's early wind efforts, which began in a regulatory vacuum without clear institutional frameworks.

What is energy policy in Colombia?

Energy policy in Colombia is defined by the National Energy Plan (PEN) 2020-2050, which includes solar and wind in its different scenarios, including for both grid-connected and unconnected areas. Electricity planning is outlined by the 15-year Generation and Transmission Expansion Plans, which are updated yearly.

Will solar and wind power increase in Colombia by 2027?

However, as of 2022, solar and wind have an operating installed capacity of just about 1.5% of the capacity mix. The next five years could see a sharp increase in solar and wind capacity. If the approved capacity effectively enters into operation, shares of solar and wind energy in Colombia's capacity mix will increase to nearly 40% by 2027.

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