

## **ELECTRICITY REGULATORY INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA: FROM COLONIAL TO POST-COLONIAL PERIODS**

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**Abstract:** The history of electricity regulatory bodies in Nigeria is as old as the introduction of electricity services in the country. The generation, transmission, distribution, and sales of electricity was first under the control of the Public Work Department, PWD created in 1896. However, in 1945 a unit in charge of electricity was carved out of PWD and was named Nigerian Electricity Undertaking, NGEU. The British Colonial Authority passed the electricity ordinance in 1950 which ushered in Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, ECN in 1951. In 1972, the National Electric Power Authority, NEPA was established. The Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN, emerged as a new regulatory body in 2005 replacing NEPA, which is in line with liberalization policy of the civilian Administration that came into power since 1999. The aim of this paper is to examine the changing roles and functions of these electricity regulating bodies in Nigeria with the view of assessing whether these changes have impacted significantly on the development of the power sector.

**Keywords:** Regulatory Institutions, Electricity Services, Generation, Transmission and Distribution

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