

Minute of 22nd meeting of SAC held on 24th February, 2016 at GERC. GIFT,
Gandhinagar

Venue: Conference room, GERC, GIFT ONE, GIFT City, Gandhinagar

Date : 24th February, 2016

Time : 11:30 AM

The meeting was chaired by Shri K.M.Shringarpure, I/c Chairman, GERC. Shri S.T.Anada, Joint Director, GERC welcomed all the members of the State Advisory Committee and other participants and requested Hon'ble Chairman to address the Committee.

Hon'ble chairman welcomed all the participants and declared the meeting open for discussion. He stated that this is the platform to share the views and discuss the issues to arrive at an amicable solution with mutual understanding which ultimately help to improve the satisfaction of society and growth of our State.

After the introductory remarks the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Agenda 1: Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 21st State Advisory Committee held on 22nd April, 2015 at Gandhinagar were sent to all the members. As no comments have been received from any of the members, the committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Agenda 2: Action Taken Report on previous Minutes

Issue 1: Update on Crop burning & Rejected cases follow up

While discussing the crop compensation status report, it was observed that there are huge numbers of rejection of claims in case of DGVCL. DGVCL explained that these rejections are on account of various reasons like not lodging the complaint by the concerned farmers in time. Due to this, claim before insurance company could not be substantiated with required papers, resulting into rejection. However, DGVCL is taking proper care to convince the insurance company. DGVCL has also taken crop insurance from another company so that affected farmers may be served more effectively. One of the SAC member advised to compare insurance premium being paid by DISCOMs and also the terms and conditions of the policy. Chairman advised all the Companies to prepare detailed guidelines on the requirements of the Insurance Company for claims processing bringing out 'Do's & Don'ts to educate the farmers and avoid such large scale rejections. Such guidelines be prepared and

printed in simple Gujarati Language in booklet form and given to all the farmers along with their electricity bill.

(Action: All DISCOMs)

Issue 2: Maintenance Activities.

The committee deliberated on the maintenance activity report submitted by DISCOMs. It was agreed that maintenance is a continuous activity. DGVCL requires to give more focus on this activity, since their report does not reflect the actions related to maintenance work carried out in planned manner. It was also decided that UGVCL shall circulate the activities carried out to make village ideal in respect to distribution network. The Chairman advised to devise a common format for all the DISCOMs to report maintenance work.

(Action: All DISCOMs)

Issue 3: Checking of Earthing.

Mr. K.K Bajaj of CERS raised the issue of poor quality of earthing provided by the DISCOMs. Representatives of PGVCL & MGVCL stated that they ensure the quality of work done by contractors by taking photographs and some percentage of works are being randomly checked by officers. Moreover payment of contactors is released only after ensuring completion of rectification work as suggested. All DISCOMs are advised to follow such practices for quality work of earthing.

(Action: All DISCOMs)

Issue 4: Accident Analysis.

It is observed from the accident report that total number of accidents have increased for the period 2015-16 (Q3+Q4) compared to 2014-15 (Q3+Q4) in case of DGVCL and UGVCL. Chairperson DGVCL stated that they have taken various steps for maintenance activities and awareness campaign for safety among the public and employees. Use of safety articles is made compulsory for employees and their supervisors are held responsible in case of non-use of safety articles while on work. Mr. Shivilalbai Barasia suggested for affixing small sticker on the meter box emphasizing installation of ELCB.

(Action: All DISCOMs)

Issue 5: Adoption of RF Metering System.

GUVNL was expected to submit a comprehensive report on the installation and utilization of RF Meters. GUVNL informed that the experience is not satisfactory and they have come across various issues. However, a report shall be prepared and put up before the Commission in two weeks. Joint Director (Tech) apprised the Committee that since, tariff policy 2016, mandated for installation of smart meters for all the consumers having consumption above 500 units by December, 2017, the utilities will have to gear up to meet their target.

(Action: GUVNL)

Issue 6: Pending Agriculture connection.

MD, PGVCL informed that as on 31st January, 2016, total 253077 nos. of applications are pending for the period prior to 2008 and stated that PGVCL will issue the estimate for the applications registered up to 2008 by March 2016 and connections will be released to the applications registered up to December 2007 by March, 2016.

It was represented by one of the Committee members that the field officers are reporting shortage of material for not releasing agriculture connections. DISCOMs assured that proper care is being taken to supply all the materials. However, sometimes for few days, due to reasons not under their control, some material is supplied with delay. But this is not a regular phenomena. Chairman advised the Committee members to bring to the notice of respective MD's, in case applicants are not getting connections in time due to non-availability of material.

Agenda 3: Issues Raised by the Members

Following important issues received from members were put up before Committee for deliberations.

Issue 1: Charges fixed for shifting of meter in the same premises are very high.

UGVCL has proposed to charge Rs. 400 for single phase and Rs. 1500 for 3 Phase meter shifting plus actual cost of wires as they can not use the old wires which may require joints. Other 3 DISCOMs were asked to give their views' on UGVCL's proposal which they assured to give within 15 days.

(Action: DGVCL, MGVCL & PGVCL)

Issue 2: More than one agriculture connection in same survey number.

Chairman directed all DISCOMs and GUVNL to examine the issue.

(Action: All DISCOMs and GUVNL)

Issue 3: Order passed by CGRF and Ombudsman are not reasoned order.

Representatives of DISCOMs stated that such cases are not brought to their notice however they assured that the suggestion will be taken care.

(Action: All DISCOMs)

Issue 4: SD refund through separate cheque.

It was suggested by one of the Committee members that if additional deposit is refunded through cheque, instead of adjusting in the electricity bill, consumer would come to know about latest balance of SD with the distribution licensees and can keep proper accounting at their end. It was informed by PGVCL that a separate letter showing opening balance and closing balance of SD lying with them is being issued to all the consumers whose SD is updated. The SD review is being under taken by DISCOMs once a year, usually in the month of April/May. This serves the expectation of the consumers.

(Action: All DISCOMs)

Issue 5: Compensation to the farmer for their land.

It was represented by one of the Committee members that compensation to the farmers for their land should be given as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Power (GoI) dated 15th October, 2015 and Commission should advise GoG in this matter. It was deliberated that since the said letter is addressed to the Chief Secretary, State Government has to take view on the same.

Agenda 4: Utility wise SoP and CGRF Report

Utility wise SoP and CGRF report were placed for the review of committee. SAC observed that fatal human accidents are still very high and have increased in case of DGVCL and UGVCL compared to corresponding quarters of previous year. Chairman directed all to make concerted efforts to reduce such unfortunate incidents

(Action: All DISCOMs)

Agenda 5: Issues for Information of Committee (Determination of Tariff FY 2016-17)

All the utilities have filed their tariff petitions for FY 2016-17 and true up for FY 2015-16. The public hearing of all tariff petitions is completed. The Commission shall issue tariff orders soon.

Agenda 6: Issues for Information of Committee (Final Supply Code 2015)

The Commission has notified the GERC (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulation, 2015 on 24th September, 2015. The Commission has constituted new SCRP. If there is any issue related to implementation of the Supply Code-2015, it may be referred to the Secretary SCRP.

Agenda 7: Issues for Information of Committee (Distribution Code (Second Amendment) 2016)

The Commission has notified the GERC (Gujarat Electricity Distribution Code (Second Amendment) Regulation, 2016 on 5th February, 2016.

Agenda 8: Issues for Information of Committee. (Draft GERC (Gujarat Electricity Grid Code (First Amendment) Regulation, 2016).

The Commission has decided to amend the GERC (Gujarat Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2013 considering the comments/suggestions received from the Grid Code Review Panel. Draft amendment with explanatory note has been put up on Commission's website. Last date for filing comments / suggestions is 11.03.2016.

Agenda 9: Any other issues with permission of the Chair,

Issue 1: Failure of Transmission lines feeding to Traction Sub-stations.

Western Railways presented a copy of letter regarding their issues related to GETCO and DISCOMs during the meeting. Brief issues are as under:

- 1) Failure of Transmission lines feeding to Traction Sub-Stations
- 2) Pending defects and Deficiencies not attended by GETCO
- 3) Converting overhead power lines crossing up to 33 KV to underground cable.

GETCO assured to resolve the issue and submit action taken report in this regard.

(Action: GETCO and All DISCOMs)

Issue 2: Levy of property Tax/Rent on electric network being laid by Distribution licensee.

Me. K.K.Bajaj of CERS raised the issue of collecting property tax by Municipal Corporation of Surat and Ahmedabad on installations required for electrification of society. TPL representative informed that an approach has already been made to the State Government and matter is being pursued. Chairman asked representative of EPD to inform the latest status of this issue. Representative of EPD stated that Finance Department, GoG has declined the proposal, but EPD will put up the proposal once again for approval of Finance Department.

(Action: EPD)

With no further business, the Chair declared the meeting as concluded.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
Secretary
GERC, Gandhinagar

List of Participants

Members Present:

1. Shri K. M. Shringarpure, Chairman, GERC, Gandhinagar.
2. Shri P. J. Thakkar, Member, GERC, Gandhinagar.
3. Shri Shahmeena Husain, Director, GUNVL, Vadodara.
4. Shri K. H. Chorera, OSD, EPD, Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar.
5. Shri H. F. Gandharva, Jr. Secretary, EPD, Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar.
6. Shri K. K. Bajaj, Consumer Education & Research Society, Ahmedabad
7. Shri N. Dinkar, Vadodara
8. Shri Maganbhai Patel, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh, Gandhinagar.
9. Shri Kirtibhai Amin, President, Pradesh Kisan Vikas Sangh, Patan
10. Shri Shivlal S. Barasiya, Rajkot Engineering Industries Association, Rajkot.
11. Shri Yudhisthir Gohil, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, A'bad.
12. The Representative, ERDA, Vadodara.
13. Shri Sandip Kumar, Managing Director, PGVCL, Rajkot.
14. Shri Anupam Anand, Managing Director, UGVCL, Mehsana.
15. Shri S. K. Negi, Managing Director, GETCO, Vadodara.
16. Shri Chetan Bundela, Vice President, Torrent Power Limited, Ahmedabad.
17. Shri B.B. Mehta, Chief Engineer, State Load Dispatch Centre, Vadodara.
18. Smt. Medha M. Marathe, Chief Engineer, MGVCL, Vadodara.
19. Smt. S.A. Naik, Chief Engineer, DGVCL, Surat.
20. Shri B.P. Buch, Chief Engineer, UGVCL, Mehsana.
21. Shri J. J. Gandhi, Additional Chief Engineer, PGVCL, Rajkot.
22. Shri R. M. Bhadang, Chief Finance Manager, GSECL, Vadodara
23. Shri B. J. Shah, Staff Officer, Office of the Ombudsman, Ahmedabad
24. The Representative, Western Railway, Mumbai
25. Smt. Alpana Dani, Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, Gandhinagar

Staff Present:

1. Shri S.T. Anada, Joint Director (Technical)
2. Shri S.R. Pandey, Legal Advisor
3. Shri P.J. Jani, Deputy Director (Legal)
4. Shri K.J. Bhuva, Deputy Director (Technical)