

Minutes of the 13th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 27.05.2011 at Conference Room, Gujarat Energy Training & Research Institute (GETRI), Vadodara:

The following members were present in the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name
1.	Dr. P.K.Mishra, Chairman Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
2.	Shri Pravinbhai Patel, Member(T), Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
3.	Dr.M.K.Iyer, Member(F), Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
4.	Dr. Ketan Shukla, Secretary, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
5.	Shri L.Chaungo, Managing Director,GUVNL
6	Shri S. B. Raval, Managing Director, PGVCL
7	Shri A. K. Varma, Managing Director, UGVCL
8	Shri A. N. Khatri, Managing Director, MGVCL
9	Shri A. K. Kaul, Managing Director, DGVCL
10	Shri B.N.Raval, Chief Electrical Inspector
11	Shri S.B.Khyalia,Executive Director(F)GUVNL
12	Shri V. T. Rajpara, Electricity Ombudsman
13	Shri J.J.Gandhi,Deputy CAO,PGVCL
14	Shri Dinesh Patel, Vice Presedent(Co-Ord.),GUVNL
15	Shri Kirtikumar J. Amin, Pradesh Kisan Vikas Sangh
16	Prof. Harikrishna Mishra, Institute of Rural Management,
17	Dr.Omkar Jani,Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute,Gandhinagar
18	Shri Jagrut Vyas, Executive Director, Torrent Power Ltd.
19	Shri N Dinkar, Vadodara
20	Shri Jyotindra Patel, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry
21	Shri Maganbhai Patel, President, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh
22	Shri Bavchandbhai Dhamelia, Gujarat Khedut Samaj
23	Shri Shivlal .L. Barasiya, Rajkot Engineering Industries Association

Officers from GERC and other utilities were also present.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. P.K.Mishra, Chairman, GERC.

Dr. Ketan Shukla, Secretary, GERC, welcomed members of the Committee, M.D. GUVNL, all MDs of DISCOMs and their officer. Dr Shukla thanked M.D, GUVNL and his team for making good arrangements and organizing the meeting.

MD, GUVNL, welcomed Hon'ble Chairman, GERC, Member (Tech), Member (Fin), Secretary, GERC, and members of the State Advisory Committee, and thanked them for their participation. He also welcomed the officers of other Utilities. MD, GUVNL informed that the GERC is proactive in redressing the grievances of the consumers and other issues faced by the Power Sector. He welcomed the initiatives of the Consumer Groups in raising issues particularly relating to the agricultural consumers. He also expressed satisfaction that under the guidance of the Hon'ble Commission, grievances of consumers would be sorted out. He also promised to provide quality services to the consumers at all time. He sincerely thanked the Commission for taking this initiative.

Dr. P.K. Mishra, Chairman, GERC welcomed the members of the Committee, and others present and made a special emphasis on discussing the consumers related issues in this meeting. He also advised members to take up issues with the right perspective and a balanced approach. He also requested GUVNL & GEDA to make a brief presentation on the Power Sector Scenario and Renewable Energy respectively.

Dr. P.K. Mishra, Chairman, GERC greeted all and proceeded with the meeting with following agenda items for discussion:

Item No: 1 Approval of the Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 6th April, 2011:

The minutes of the 12th meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 6th April, 2011, had been sent to all the members. Since no comments were received from any of the members, the minutes were approved.

Item No: 2 Actions Taken Report on the Minutes of 12th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee:

Dr. Mishra, Chairman, GERC read out the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee.

With reference to the Study Report on Merit Order Despatch, Chairman, GERC, informed that a Sample case, hard copy of declaration, demand forecast of DISCOMs, requisition made by GUVNL, dispatch instruction of SLDC had been sent to members for their knowledge. He informed the members that information regarding ‘Must Run’ status of generator and various obligations under the PPA, details of technical minimum of individual unit, along with merit order statement have been published by SLDC on its website. Chairman, GERC instructed SLDC to apprise the Members of SAC regarding the progress on the web-based scheduling during the next meeting.

Regarding MYT petition filing, Chairman, GERC, informed that the state DISCOMs have already filed their petition and published the advertisement in the newspapers.

Chairman, GERC informed the members that the analysis report of the CEI on the accidents occurred in PGVCL area have been attached to the agenda note. He instructed CEI to brief the numbers about the analysis report. CEI apprised

the Members on the report and read out the suggestions made to DISCOMs to minimize the accidents. Members of the SAC complained regarding improper annual inspections of transformer centers by CEI officials, poorly maintained lines, lower height of distribution transformers, poor maintenance and open distribution boxes, poor quality of service connection wires, unbalance loading on transformer centers, etc. MD, PGVCL apprised the Members that about 97 teams are required specifically for maintenance of lines and transformers in rural areas of PGVCL. Out of that 91 teams have already been deployed in anticipation of PGVCL Board's approval. MD, UGVCL informed that a special committee has been constituted to analyze the cases of crop damage due to spark in electric lines. He apprised the members that a total of 57 cases have been identified by the company, out of which the Committee had physically visited the sites of 31 cases so far. A separate report will be submitted to the Commission on completion of the analysis. Members of SAC raised the issues of non-compensation in case of damage of crop due to line faults and very little compensation in cases of fatal accidents of animals. MD, GUVNL promised the Members that the issue regarding compensation will be settled in consultation with State Government before 15.6.2011. He also instructed all the DISCOMs that in no case distribution box shall remain opened and unmaintained. He instructed all the DISCOMs that special maintenance gangs be deployed for this work. Chairman, GERC instructed all the utilities to maintain lines and transformers properly so that the forthcoming monsoon shall pass without any accident.

Item No: 3 Consumer related issues:

1. With reference to the issue raised by Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (Shri Maganbhai Patel) for irregular supply to agricultural sector, MD, GUVNL, informed that GUVNL is committed to supply 8 hours to

agricultural sector. He also reiterated that GUVNL has on many occasions increased the Ag. Power supply up to 10 hours whenever it is found necessary looking to the requirement of particular crop. Bharatiya Kisan Sangh demanded that agricultural power supply should be given only in two slots between morning 4.00 am to night 8.00 pm. MD, GUVNL, however did not agree with them and explained that this is not possible due to load management problem. Dr. P.K. Mishra informed the members that it is not possible to increase number of agricultural hours and giving power supply in two slots looking to the capacity constraints of transmission and distribution network.

Regarding day time schedule of agriculture power supply in the area of habitats of wild animals, MD GUVNL and MD PGVCL informed the Members names of various 11 KV feeder and areas where day time power supply schedule has been implemented. They also showed their readiness to implement similar type of schedule if there are any areas left uncovered. Members of SAC may also give their suggestion for the same.

2. Shri Bavchandbhai of Gujarat Khedut Samaj informed that fee of Rs. 500/- have been charged as registration fees for switching over of the regular priority new connection application under Tatkal Scheme. ED (Fin), GUVNL, replied that the fee of Rs. 500/- is being refunded in the estimate. MD, PGVCL, informed the committee that all the Tatkal applications shall be processed and cleared. It was further clarified by ED (Fin), GUVNL that the farmers should pay the actual cost being incurred in releasing new agriculture connection. MD, PGVCL informed the Members, that in Tatkal Scheme, out of the total expenditure, 80% cost is to be borne by the farmer and 20% cost is borne by the company. MD,

GUVNL, agreed to give 5 HP connections with 5 KVA transformers instead of higher capacity transformers.

Regarding the issue of releasing LTP-V category connections, in dark zone area, ED (Fin) GUVNL clarified that LTP-V category tariff is for Sardar Sarovar Canal surface water only and releasing such connections for other surface water sources has high risk of unauthorized use of JGY connection. It was also mentioned by him that declaration of dark zone is within the purview of State Government. However, he promised that GUVNL shall take up this issue with the State Government. Shri Bavchandbhai pointed out that the applicants covered in previous DIS Scheme who were unable to pay the estimate should be allowed to get benefit of new DIS Scheme and those applications should not be discarded from the priority list. MD, GUVNL took note of this point and promised to look into it and resolve the issue.

Consumer Group requested GUVNL to allow use of separate motors instead of one motor under the HTP V category. ED (Fin), GUVNL, categorically denied that this category is for 24 hours supply. Hence, use of separate motors across acres of agriculture land cannot be allowed as there may be misuse of electricity. MD, GUVNL, informed that it is not possible to allow separate motors under this category because there are chances that they may use electricity to draw water from wells also. ED (Fin), GUVNL informed the Members that this issue was also discussed by the farmer groups with the State Government and it was decided to construct overhead tanks nearby the water source. But the Members of SAC expressed that this was not a workable solution. MD, GUVNL promised to take up the issue with the State Government. MD, PGVCL, informed that new connection applications have increased against

clearance of the pending applications. According to PGVCL, they have cleared pending applications up to 1995.

3. Chief Electrical Inspector informed that a circular was issued in 1999 by the Department regarding consideration of motor efficiency while calculating connected load of agriculture motor pump. DISCOMs and GUVNL questioned the rationale behind the said circular and informed the members that after constitution of GERC in 1998, it is not mandatory for them to follow the directives issued by CEI regarding calculation of connected load. It was also represented by the DISCOMs that they calculate the connected load of motor pump based on KW measured by acuchek-meter at the time of installation checking. The same KW is being considered by the energy meter of a metered consumer of all category consumers. Thus there cannot be discrimination for consideration of KW for calculating connected load of agriculture and other category consumers. The members argued that there is no motor pump available in the market which works on 100% efficiency. In the circumstances, if a farmer asks for the load from the DISCOM based on the name plate capacity of the motor-pump, then in practical condition it draws more current than that shown on the name plate of the motor-pump.

Looking to the differing perceptions prevailing among DISCOMs and consumers in respect to the rational of CEI circular, it was decided to constitute a Committee comprising of the following members to analyze the issue and submit the report latest by 26.6.2011.

- i) Ombudsman
- ii) Chief Electrical Inspector

- iii) A.C.E, UGVCL, Corporate office
 - iv) A.C.E., MGVCL, Corporate office
 - v) Mr. Maganbhai Patel, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh
 - vi) Mr. Kiritbhai Amin, Member, Central Advisory Committee, CERC
4. Mr. Bavchand R. Dhaneliya, raised the issue regarding installation of more than one motor pumps in one connection at different water sources in agricultural land. ED (Fin), GUVNL informed that it is practically not possible to monitor load sanctioned to the farmer under one survey number. MD, PGVCL, informed that till there is a waiting list of Ag. connections, they cannot permit farmers to avail this facility.
5. The issue regarding abolition of meter rent was discussed at length. The Chairman, GERC, informed the Members that provision of meter rent is made under GERC (Licensees power to recover expenditure incurred in providing supply and other miscellaneous charges) Regulation 2005. This issue may be taken up at the time of amendment to the regulation by the Commission.
6. Regarding issue of parity in the power factor rebate vis a vis power factor penalty, it was decided that this will be looks at while determining the tariff.
7. Shri Shivlal Barasia of Rajkot Engg. Association raised issue of payment of prorated charges for the entire demand in case of LT to HT conversion. All the DISCOMs confirmed that they are taking prorated charges for the entire demand in case of LT to HT conversion only if development charge is not paid by the applicant while availing LT connection.

8. MD, GUVNL, informed that no CGRF cases have been forwarded to GUVNL, except for certain policy issues concerning all the Discoms. MD, GUVNL, further informed that CGRF / Ombudsman judgments have been more or less implemented without delay. Chairman, GERC, reiterated that according to the notification issued, CGRF shall address the grievance within 45 days of the application after conducting hearing in each and every case. As such the decision of CGRF and Ombudsman should be implemented without referring it to GUVNL. In case of any dispute there are appropriate legal remedies for the same.
9. Rajkot Engineering Association (Shri Shivlal Barasia) and Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (Shri Maganbhai Patel) expressed that generally all the SoP standards are being observed by the utilities.
10. The issue raised by Rajkot Engineering Association (Shri Shivlal Barasia) regarding Poor line maintenance and earthing were discussed.
11. The issue regarding different practices adopted by Discoms for issuing estimates to new industrial connection applicants and other category connection applicants was raised by Rajkot Engineering Association (Shri Shivlal Barasia). It was mentioned by him that GUVNL has already issued a circular in this regard and thereby the issue is resolved.
12. The issues raised by Consumer Education and Research Society (Shri K.K. Bajaj) and Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Shri Bipin D. Patel) regarding exorbitant meter testing fees charged by ERDA / EQDC and calculation of security deposit were discussed. Chairman, GERC suggested that the matter may be taken up with ERDA / EQDC.

Kishan Sangh requested the Commission to compile various circulars relating to AG PDC reconnections, issuance of new agriculture connections, and shifting of agriculture connections into one circular and circulate to the utilities to ease the implementation of it and to avoid interpretation issues at field office level. Chairman, GERC instructed utilities to compile the relevant circulars immediately.

GUVNL gave a presentation to the State Advisory Committee on Power Sector scenario. GEDA gave a presentation on Renewable Energy Power Projects.

The presentations made by GUVNL and GEDA are attached as **Annexure I and II.**

E.D. (Fin), GUVNL, thanked the members and expressed gratitude for raising and discussing the issues in a very positive manner. He also appreciated the gesture of the Consumer Groups in particular. He promised to address the issues for the benefit of society and expressed thanks to the GUVNL staff and members of the Committee for the excellent discussion and interactions.

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

**SECRETARY
GERC**