

**Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 at Saffrony Holiday Resorts, Mehsana**

The following members were present:

| 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.      | Prof. Harikrishna Mishra, Institute of Rural Management,                    |
| 6.      | Shri K.K.Bajaj, Consumer Education and Research Society                     |
| 7.      | Shri Dipesh shah, Confederation of Indian Industries                        |
| 8.      | Shri Jyotindra Patel, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry                |
| 9.      | Shri G. K. Prajapati, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry                |
| 10.     | Shri N Dinkar, Vadodara   |
| 11.     | Shri T.P. Govindan, Director, Electrical Research and Development Assn      |
| 12.     | Shri Maganbhai Patel, President, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh                       |
| 13.     | Shri Bavchandbhai Dhamelia, Gujarat Khedut Samaj                            |
| 14.     | Shri Shivilal .L. Barasiya, Rajkot Engineering Industries Association       |
| 15.     | Shri Kirtikumar J. Amin, Pradesh Kisan Vikas Sangh                          |
| 16.     | Shri Sachin Oza, Development Support centre                                 |
| 17.     | Shri V. T. Rajpara, Electricity Ombudsman                                   |
| 18.     | Shri Jagrut Vyas, Executive Director, Torrent Power Ltd.                    |
| 19.     | Shri P. H. Rana, Director(Technical), GUVNL                                 |
| 20.     | Shri S. B. Raval, Managing Director, PGVCL                                  |
| 21.     | Shri A. K. Varma, Managing Director, UGVCL                                  |
| 22.     | Shri A. N. Khatri, Managing Director, MGVCL                                 |
| 23.     | Shri A. K. Kaul, Managing Director, DGVCL                                   |

Officers from the GERC and other utilities were also present.

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

Dr. Ketan Shukla, Secretary, GERC in his welcome Speech, thanked MD, UGVCL and his team for making arrangement to organize the meeting for the first time outside the headquarters of the GERC.

Shri A.K. Verma, Managing Director, Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited (UGVCL) in his introductory remarks welcomed the idea of the Commission to organize such meetings outside GERC, Ahmedabad. Shri Verma gave a brief account of the working and achievements of UGVCL. Shri Verma expressed his gratitude that in spite of all the constraints and difficulties, UGVCL improved its performance in various fields of its activities, under the guidance of GERC. He also acknowledged the guidance received from GERC in serving the remote end consumers effectively. He added that large numbers of solar projects are coming up in UGVCL area and expressed confidence that they will be able to strengthen their network for evacuation of power from these projects. He informed the members that this year UGVCL's Distribution losses are expected to be in a single digit.

Shri P.K. Mishra, Chairman greeted all and took up agenda items for discussion.

**Item No.1: Approval of minutes of the 11th Meeting of the state Advisory Committee held on 27th October, 2010.**

One comment was received from Shri Maganbhai Patel of Bhartiya Kisan Sangh on minutes of the 11th meeting of State Advisory Committee which was noted by the committee and the minutes were approved without any modification.

**Item No.2: Action taken report on the minutes of the 11th Meeting of State Advisory Committee.**

- 3(a): It was informed that the Commission has already notified the MYT Regulations, on 22nd March 2011. Shri Bajaj requested to hold hearings before finalizing such regulations as is done in other states. The Chairman agreed to look into the matter for future regulations.

- 4(1): The report of SoP was received from Torrent Power Ltd. Ahmedabad & Surat. Also annual SoP reports were received from PGVCL, UGVCL & TPL Ahmedabad & Surat.
- 4(2): Progress report of PGVCL, its efforts and constraints were discussed. The representative of the PGVCL informed the members about progress in Commissioning of new 66 KV sub-stations, bifurcation of 11 KV feeders. It was pointed out that the distribution loss figures of PGVCL looks higher compared to other DISCOMs because of different types of consumer mix with PGVCL compared to others. It was informed to the members that due to higher consumption in AG sector, loss figure are high. The burden of AG loading was analyzed. In spite of that, PGVCL succeeded in reducing its losses from 32.5 to 22.5 %. Also progress in HVDS scheme implementation and improvement in interruption indices discussed. MD PGVCL, Mr.Raval stated that there is financial constraint for implementation of HVDS scheme. He informed the members that the issue of financial constraint has been referred to GoG. He informed that it is expected that GoG would approve Rs.249 Cr for HVDS scheme and Rs.162 Cr. for feeder bifurcation scheme.

In both the schemes, high T&D loss feeders will be covered first. Mr.Raval added that a committee has been formed with GETCO officers to look into the various issues that may arise in implementation of both the schemes. The Chairman observed that the performance of PGVCL has improved, and advised PGVCL to endeavor for better improvement in spite of constraints due to geographical and other aspects.

- 5: It was informed that the Commission has finalized the regulations for CGRF & Ombudsman which is under translation to Gujarati and would notified soon.

**Item No.3: Study Report on Merit Order Dispatch:**

The Member (Technical) Shri Pravinbhai Patel informed that based on objections raised by CERS during the hearing of tariff petitions filled by DISCOMs, regarding non observance of Merit order Dispatch by SLDC, a consultant was appointed by the commission. The report of the consultant was discussed in brief. The Chairman suggested to Shri P.H. Rana Director GUVNL to convene a meeting to discuss the recommendations in detail. SAC members could be invited.

**Item No.4: Model regulations on Demand Side Management:**

The Chairman observed that there is a lot of scope for DSM in addition to load curve flattening. As regards consumers, efforts are required for promoting use of energy efficient appliances. A model regulation prepared by the FOR, though not mandatory to implement has been sent to all utilities for comments and requested all the stakeholders to furnish this comments at the earliest. It was desired that farmers should be educated for adopting DSM. It was requested by some members that ambiguity prevailing among farmers regarding adopting metered tariff should be clarified and farmers should be incentivized for adopting metered tariff. Prof. Mishra of IRMA suggested to avail assistance of self-help group who may educate the farmers and public regarding benefits of DSM.

**Item No.5: MYT Petition Filing**

Chairman observed that DISCOMs have delayed in submission of MYT petition and advised them to do so immediately.

**Item No.6: Status of determining Open Access Surcharge:**

The status of Open Access surcharge was given for information.

**Item No.7: Renewable Energy and Renewable Energy Certificate:**

The GERC has been very proactive in prescribing renewable energy obligation by distribution utilities and have fixed the RPO based on the Potential of such energy in the state of Gujarat. The GERC has

already framed the REC regulations to facilitate the manufacturers/ generators in selling the excess generation from renewable in future. The commission has appointed GEDA as the Nodal agency to ensure that the REC mechanism takes off in the state.

**Item No.8: Standard of Performance (SoP)**

Annexure I, II & III were discussed in brief.

DTC failure and accidents are on rise mainly in PGVCL. The Chairman desired that PGVCL should take some urgent remedial measures. One member suggested that there should be mock drills for safety awareness in villages, schools and colleges. It should be taken as awareness program. Chairmen observed that construction should be away from the lines of the utilities and cooperation of public is essential to reduce accidents. Also utilities are advised to ensure for proper maintenance of lines prior to the forthcoming monsoon season. Member (Tech.) informed that a committee comprising of chief electrical inspector, an officer of UGVCL and an officer of the commission has been constituted to analyze the large number of accident cases in PGVCL area. The chairman advised DISCOMs to disseminate literature narrating importance of safety and means of adoption of safety practices among the people living in villages and urban areas. Shri Amin pointed out that safety mechanism at distribution transformer level is usually non operative or it is absent. He also advised that line or transformer centres where accident takes place frequently, should be shifted to alternative location free of cost by the DISCOMs. Shri Maganbhai informed the commission about the damage to standing crop of wheat due to snapping of 11KV line conductor in UGVCL area. Chairman expressed his displeasure towards such type of incidents and instructed MD UGVCL to investigate the matter and submit a detailed report before the commission within 7days.

MD, TPL informed the members that they are in the process of evolving a system in which the line trips before the live conductor touches the ground. Because, in most of the cases of electrical accident, the root cause

is non-tripping of line even after the live conductor comes in contact with the ground. The Chairman asked TPL to give more details on this experiment during the next meeting.

**Item No.9: Monitoring Report of CGRF & Ombudsman:**

It was desired by the Chairman to create more awareness amongst public regarding working of CGRF & Ombudsman. Implementation of order of CGRF & Ombudsman should be done timely by utilities. MDs were instructed to review the orders of consumer forum regularly.

**Item No.10: Draft Regulation for Open Access:**

The Commission is to finalize the regulations for open access soon.

**Item No.11: Issues raised by Members:**

A few issues such as excessive transformer charges, making VCB compulsory above 500 KVA etc. were raised. Some other issues like non replacement of overloaded transformers, improper checking methods, non implementation of Fixed Cost directive, not considering the efficiency factor in AG load calculations as directed by electricity commissioner were raised.

Chairman suggested to keep the next meeting for the next quarter at Vadodara to discuss specifically such issues and also advised utilities to promptly implement the instructions and regulations of GERC.

Shri P.J Patel Chief Engineer, UGVCL proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Members and Secretary, GERC. He also thanked all the members and invitees for remaining present in the meeting and making it a grand success.

Dr.Ketan Shukla  
Secretary  
GERC