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GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Ahmedabad

Proceedings of the 5th Meeting of the
Co-ordination Forum
held on 15th December, 2009

The 5th meeting of the Co-ordination forum was held on 15th December 2009 at Hotel Fortune Landmark, Ahmedabad at 11.00 a.m. Following members were present at the meeting.

1. Dr.P.K.Mishra, Chairman, GERC.....In Chair
2. Shri Pravinbhai Patel, Member (Tech)
4. Shri D.J. Pandian, IAS, PS-EPD & Chairman GUVNL
5. Shri L.M.Chuaungo, IAS, MD., GUVNL/MGVCL
6. Shri V.S. Gadhvi, IAS, Chairman, PGVCL.
7. Shri S.B. Rawal, MD-PGVCL
8. Shri S.K. Negi, Managing Director, GETCO.
9. Shri P.H. Rana, Director, GUVNL
9. Shri G.K. Sinha, IFS, Managing Director, DGVCL.
10. Shri A.K. Verma, IFS, Managing Director, UGVCL.
11. Shri Sanjay Nandan Agrawal, IAS., Secretary, GERC
12. Shri B.N.Raval, CEI-CED, GOG
13. Shri N.H. Suthar, CE, SLDC
14. Shri R.O.Gandhi, CE (T & C), MGVCCL
15. Shri Nilay Dave, Essar Power Ltd.
16. Shri Samir Shah, Vice President, TPL
17. Shri C.M.Bundela, TPL

Other Officers from utilities

- 1) Shri T.D.Davda, Add. CE, DGVCL
- 2) Shri J.J.Gandhi, PGVCL
- 3) Shri K.M.Dave, MGVCCL
- 4) Shri M.P.Trivedi, MGVCCL
- 5) Shri Chintan.A.Vyas, GSPC, Pipavav Power Co.
- 6) Shri P.A.Shah, CE, GUVNL

Officers of GERC also were present:

- 1) Shri M.N.Khalyani
- 2) Shri D.R.Parmar
- 3) Shri S.R. Pande
- 4) Mrs. A.S.Dani
- 5) Shri G.H.Patel
- 6) Ms. C.N.Bhatt
- 7) Shri B. R. Joshi
- 8) Shri B.S. Jaiswal.

Dr.P.K.Mishra, Chairman, GERC presided over the meeting and warmly welcomed the members of the Co-ordination Forum. In his welcome speech, he introduced new members of the Coordination Committee, viz. Shri D.J. Pandian, PS-EPD and Chairperson, GUVNL; Shri Pravinbhai Patel, Member (Tech) GERC; and Shri Sanjay Nandan Agrawal, Secretary, GERC; Shri V.S. Gadhvi, Chairman, PGVCL and Shri S.B.Raval, MD, PGVCL.

He indicated that due to the recession in the global market and its impact on the economy as a whole, the demand for electricity had declined during the last year. However, the situation is now gradually changing and it appears that the demand for electricity is increasing in comparison to the last year. He observed that the Commission has issued orders dt 14th December 2009 in respect of various petitions filed by the utilities for their APR of 2008-09, and determination of tariff for the year 2009-10. He also advised that the utilities should file their APR for the year 2009-10 as per the schedule so that the Commission would be able to issue necessary orders before the end of this financial year i.e. March 2010. Further, he appraised that the Commission had recently organized a half day Seminar on “issues and challenges regarding protection of

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consumers' interest. The seminar was graced over by the Chairman of the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity, Justice Shri Karpaga Vinayagam as a guest of honour. Hon'ble Chief Justice of Gujarat Justice Shri. M.S.Shah presided over the function as Chief Guest. Members of the CGRFs., State Advisory Committee and senior officers of the utilities were present and they expressed their views. He further informed that the Commission has already appointed independent members in CGRFs and a regular Ombudsman is likely to be in place shortly as per the directives of the Appellate Tribunal. He emphasized the need for special efforts to address the following important issues:

- i) Meeting the increasing demand of electricity.
- ii) Creation of necessary transmission infrastructure for evacuation of power generated from solar, wind and other non-conventional power plants that have signed agreement with either GUVNL or Govt. of Gujarat under Solar and Wind Power policies of the State Government during the Vibrant Gujarat event.
- iii) The Commission has prepared draft Regulation on Procurement of Power from Renewable Sources 2009 in which the RPPO percentages are specified for distribution licensee as well as captive open access users for the years 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12. With increasing number of such projects being established by the project developers it becomes essential to take up necessary evacuation planning from such power plants.
- iv) High level of losses in JGY Feeders and its impact on overall tariff.
- v) Need to carry out studies on (a) impact of wind energy generation on grid operation, reliability and its commercial impact and (b) demand side management and energy efficiency measures adopted in the power sector and overall impact in the sector to reduce the energy consumption, efficiency gained and financial gains achieved.

Thereafter the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Item No. 1

Approval of minutes of the Fourth Meeting of Coordination Committee

Minutes of the fourth meeting of Coordination Forum held on 8.10.08 had been forwarded to all members on 27.10.2008 letter no. vide GERC/SCF/2345/2009. Since no comments or suggestions were received from any of the members, the Committee approved the minutes.

Item No. 2 : Action points of the Fourth Meeting

2.1 Intra-State ABT

This issue has been discussed in earlier Co-ordination Forum Meeting. SLDC has carried out mock trial successfully for the Intra-state ABT. They have started preparing State level energy accounting which is not disputed by any beneficiary. The Commission utilized the assistance of Shri Bhanu Bhushan, ex-Member, CERC for verifying the readiness of the SLDC in implementing the Intra-State ABT in the state. Shri Bhanu Bhushan suggested to implement the Intra-state ABT excluding CGPs. He has also proposed a mechanism for resolving the issues of Intra-state ABT implementation at Essar Complex where all the three types of entities, viz., CPP, IPP and utility consumer, were present in one complex. GETCO/ GUVNL and ESSAR have also made efforts to resolve their issues at their respective levels. However, no consensus was reached between the parties on following issues:

- (i) Whether the maximum demand of ESSAR Steel as a consumer is being calculated on 15 minute basis or half hourly basis in consideration of PPAs between the parties. Moreover, the ESSAR

Limited is also a consumer of DGVCL and are having contracts with DGVCL.

- (ii) In case of Essar Steel overdrawing from the grid, whether the charges payable by them shall be (i) at the rate of excess demand charges as specified in the tariff schedule or, (ii) UI charges or (iii) temporary connection charges.
- (iii) Applicability of scheduling process, in case of CGP wheeling power for its own use at different locations.
- (iv) The treatment of losses and grid charges are under dispute on account of the bus bar installed in the premises of Essar Limited as to whether this is a part of Grid or it is an asset of Essar Limited is in dispute and the matter is pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat and the orders are awaited. Energy accounting in such situation is required to be resolved amicably.

The above issues are required to be discussed and sorted out between GUVNL, GETCO., DGVCL & Essar Limited amicably to avoid future complications in implementation of intra state ABT. On receipt of the outcome of such meetings between the parties, the Commission will start the process of finalization of the matter to the utmost satisfaction of all.

2.2 Earthing Terminal at Consumers' premises

It was appraised that Rule 33 of the Indian Electricity Rules, 1956 provides that the Discoms have to provide earthed terminal at the consumer's premises. It is observed that the consumers are not provided earthed terminal by the unbundled discoms of the erstwhile GEB. There is no specific guideline issued by the CEA/ CEI on this

Further progression may be discussed

aspect and therefore, the Commission had sought expert opinion of CEA through FOR to adopt a uniform approach throughout the State for providing earthed terminal at consumers premises. The CEA recommended different methodologies for providing earthed terminal at consumer's premises. Accordingly, the Commission has directed CEI and Discoms to implement the recommendations of the CEA for providing earthed terminal at consumer's premises. The Distribution companies sought two months time, stating that they have approached ERDA for suggesting proper method to be adopted for providing earthed terminal at the consumer premises when power supply is given through underground system or overhead system.

Chairman GERC informed that CERS has given scientific data and methodology during the course of hearing of their petition. The Commission has also taken help of CEA and REC. The CEA has given their recommendation on this subject. The CEI has also issued various guidelines on the said subject. It is essential for Discoms to comply with the statutory provisions of the rules and to provide earthed terminal at consumers' premises. The Commission has already given directives in its order in petition 909 of 2007 that Discoms should comply with the provisions of Rule 33 of IE Rules, 1956. The time frame provided for submitting the study report of ERDA and road map for this activity charts was also completed in the month of July 2009. However, the Commission has not received any compliance report in this respect .

Shri R.O. Gandhi, MGVCL informed that they have assigned the work to ERDA for suggesting the proper method to be adopted for providing earthed terminal at the consumer premises when power supply is given through underground system or overhead system.

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ERDA has submitted their preliminary report in which they proposed to adopt and provide earth terminal by T.T with RCB or TNCS System. In TT system earthing is provided by the consumers at their premises and neutral and source wires coming from utility supply to the consumer premises. The neutral wire is earthed at distribution transformer center and the earth terminal which is provided at consumer premises is earthed at consumer's premises. In this system it is essential to provide earth leakage circuit breaker at consumer premises. In case of TNCS System neutral and earth wires are combined and the same will go upto the earthed terminal provided at the consumers' premises. He stated that as per ERDA report the TT System is an appropriate system for providing earth terminal for power supply in rural areas where power supply is provide through overhead system.

In TNCS System (i) source wire and (ii) neutral and earth wire which goes separately and neutral and earth wires are combined upto the pole/supply point of the distribution licensee. Thereafter they are separated and reach upto consumer premises. In such system it is essential that earth wire goes separately from the source/phase wire required to earth at every pole. Moreover, in case of breakage of earth wire it falls on neutral and phase wire and if the earth provided nearby are broken in that case it will lead to circulation of fault current in the system and chances of accidents occur. In rural area and isolated places it is observed that the earth made at the poles and earth wires are sometimes removed by unauthorized persons resulting in theft. In such cases the very purpose of providing earth is defeated. Moreover, huge investment is required to implement the TNCS system all over the state, as indicated below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Anticipated Expenditure (Rs.in Crores)
1.	Providing 254000 CKM line length conductor	3000
2.	Providing earthing on every third pole of about 88 lakh poles	2160
3.	Earthing of 3,50,000 Distribution Transformers	570
	Total	5730

In case of TT system it becomes necessary to provide earth terminal and earth leakage circuit breakers at each and every consumer's premises. In this case the total expenditure expected is of Rs.1000 crores for all the Discoms.

It is decided by the Discoms to adopt TNCS system in the urban areas to provide earth terminal at consumers' premises. At present, it is gradually implemented in the city areas of Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and other major cities in the State. Underground cable is utilized to provide power supply as well as and earthed terminal at consumers' premises. While in the case of rural areas, it is decided to adopt TT system with earth leakage circuit breakers.

Shri R.O. Gandhi, CE-MGVCL assured that the Discom will prepare necessary activity chart as per ERDA/CEA recommendation to provide earthed terminal at consumers' premises and submit to the commission within 15 days ERDA study report.

Maybe kept

Item No. 3
Power Sector Scenario – Generation, Transmission and Distribution by

GUVNL

3.1. Shri L.M.Chuaungo, MD, GUVNL made a presentation in respect of the power sector scenario in Gujarat and stated that the present installed capacity of the State is 11636 MW, comprising of state owned generating stations (6107 MW, share from central projects (2677 MW) and IPPs (2852 MW). He said that about 8900 MW of generating capacity is various stages of implementation. Taking these projects into account the total capacity available at the end of 11th plan will be 18,764 MW. Based on the projections of 17 EPS total capacity requirement at the end of 2011-12 will be 18,428 MW. Thus the state will be self sufficient in power by the end of the 11th plan. Regarding transmission system he stated that T&D losses were 26.51% in the year 2005-06 which were to 21.14% during the year 2008-09. Thus, there is a considerable reduction in T&D losses. He further stated that it is essential to evacuate the power generated from the new power plant, which will come into existence by the year 2011-12 and for that GETCO has planned to increase its substations /lines of 400 KV, 220 KV, 132 KV and 66 KV in a phased manner. The availability of transmission substations and lines was above 99% during the last 5 years which is above the national average level.

There will be increase in the number of customers in the distribution license area. To cater to their demands in the coming years (i.e. upto 2011-12), the distribution licensees have planned to increase their distribution transformer centres, HT & LT lines and such other works. It is also stated that in the Jyoti Gram Yojana, agricultural

feeders are separated from the rural feeders. It is observed that the T&D losses is about 48% in the JGY feeders hence this issue is given top priority by the Discoms management to reduce the losses at actual level. Every reduction in losses in JGY areas makes extra revenues to the Discoms which will help to reduce revenue gap of Discoms. He also informed that GUVNL has assigned a project to IIM Ahmedabad to carry out study on JGY feeders. The sample size for this study is kept 10000 units throughout the State so that the final findings of the study become more accurate. They have taken samples of industrial and commercial consumer categories; samples for other categories are awaited. He also informed that the Discoms are purchasing the power from the non-conventional sources. It is expected that the capacity addition in wind energy will take place of 636 MW in the year 2009-10, 791 MW in the FY 2010-11 and 350 MW in the FY 2011-12. Similarly, it is expected that Solar energy projects of 100 MW will be available in 2010-11 and 200 MW in 2011-12. The Discoms shall purchase Non conventional energy from such generators.

- 3.2 Shri S.K. Negi, Managing Director, GETCO made detailed presentation on capacity addition and transmission plan of the State. He stated that the GETCO has made necessary arrangement for evacuation of state share's of Power from the Mundra UMPP project as well as 2000 MW from M/s. Adani Power Limited & 1000 MW from M/s. Essar Power Limited with whom GUVNL has signed PPA under competitive bidding. The GETCO has also made necessary transmission planning for evacuation of power from various projects of SECL, GSPC, Torrent Sugden Limited, GSEG, GSEC etc., The GETCO has planned to establish number of substation, capacitor / reactor bank for voltage control. GETCO has

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planned necessary arrangement for evacuation of power looking to added capacity of wind energy generators in the State. He stated that there are problems of under-recovery of transmission charges from the wind energy generators who are wheeling the power for their captive consumption. Moreover, the wind energy generators are creating the grid stability related issues. GETCO is unaware about the solar power projects which will come in different part of the State. It is essential that GETCO should be aware about such projects to plan for creation of new infrastructure for the evacuation of such power. MD GETCO also informed that the transmission losses increased in the year 2008-09 in comparison to 2007-08. The losses were increased due to flow of power from South Gujarat to Saurashtra. The Sugan project of Torrent Power Limited came in commercial operation from August 2009 hence the power generation increase in South Gujarat which is transferred to Saurashtra region. He further added that the transmission losses are likely to be increased from next year and same will reduce after 2011-12.

Item No. 4

Open Access in Transmission & Distribution

- 3.3. Chairman, GERC observed that high loss levels in JYG feeder is a matter of concern and requested the Discoms to undertake detail studies on reasons for the same and to find out remedial measures. He appreciated the performance of transmission network of GETCO in terms of availability, but expressed concern about increasing trend in transmission losses regarding problem being focused by GETCO regarding evacuation of wind power. He intimated that IEEE have recently come out with a special issue on wind power and suggested that GETCO and GERC may study the impact of wind generation on

May be dropped

Grid and make a presentation on the matter, which was approved by MD, GETCO.

The Members of the Co-ordination Forum were appraised that the Electricity Act, 2003 and National Electricity Policy emphasize on introduction of Open Access in transmission and distribution network of the Licensees. It enables the persons to purchase power from other sources other than the distribution licensee in whose area they are situated or wheel the power for own use from their own generating stations. The Commission has also notified the Regulation for the same. However, it is observed by the Commission that open access has not been getting momentum reportedly due to various reasons such as:

- (i) Non-installation of compatible ABT meters for recording the energy transaction.
- (ii) Non-installation of CT of 0.2 S Class by the consumers as specified in the CEA Metering Regulation.
- (iii) Non-installation of RTU and associated equipments for communication purpose by the consumers.
- (iv) Inadequate capacity of the transmission/ distribution system (e.g. non-compliance of N-1 criteria for transmission system)
- (v) Delay in the power system study by GETCO/ SLDC.
- (vi) Inadequate voltage level for injection /drawal of the power. (11 kV voltage level).
- (vii) Existing Discom consumer debarred from open access due to prevailing policy / directive.

The Chairman of the Commission informed the forum Members that the objective, of the EA 2003 is to promote competition in the power sector. The Act provides legal right to the consumer, CGP holders and generators to get open access in transmission and distribution systems for purchase/sale of power through the grid. The transmission licensees shall have to keep enough stock of Energy meters, CTs, RTU and other equipments so that the permission for open access as and when applied for is granted on payment of approved charges. The Govt. of India has also constituted a task force for operationalisation of open access. The task force has made certain recommendations which are required to be complied by the utilities. One of the recommendations is to ensure enabling arrangements such as standby supplies at affordable prices, metering and settlement. MD-GETCO informed that it is the duty of the consumer to provide necessary meter, C.T., RTU and communication system for availing open-access. This procedure is adopted in PGCIL also. The GETCO/SLDC have granted maximum open access amongst all the States in the Country and they are providing open access to the consumers who are consumer of GUVNL/Discoms. Grant of open access to the consumer who is not a consumer of any Discom is difficult because they are not connected with the grid. It was emphasized that the Discom/GUVNL should reconsider their policy and not insist on becoming consumer of Discoms.

Item No. 5
Renewables

May be attract

The forum Members were appraised that the Commission has brought out a Draft Regulation on procurement of power from Renewable Energy Sources 2009 in place of Regulation 2005. The draft regulation stipulates renewable power purchase obligations for the distribution licensees, captive and open access consumers for the control period 2009-10 to 11-12. Suggestions were invited from the stakeholders. In the meantime, some CPP consumers approached Hon'ble Gujarat High Court on issue regarding applicability of RPPO to CPP/Open Access consumer. The Hon'ble Gujarat High Court had disposed of the said petition and vacated the stay which was granted earlier. However, Commission is advised by legal experts to publish fresh public notice and then only finalise the draft. The process has been initiated.

The Commission is in the process of finalizing its orders on power procurement from Wind Power generators and Solar Power generators. Orders on Biomass generation and Bagassee based generation are also in draft stage.

Item No. 6
Renewable Energy Certificate

May be merged with issue No 5

Sections 61(h) and 86(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provide that the State Electricity Regulatory Commission shall promote renewable energy and co-generation from different sources. According to Section 86(i)(e) the SERCs have to specify Renewable Power Purchase Obligation for the distribution licensee. The Commission is in the process of finalisation of draft regulation

on Renewable Power Purchase. Some of the highlight of these regulation are

- (a) The Commission has specified Renewable Power Purchase Obligation percentage of total energy use (consumption) by distribution licensee, CPP and Open access user(s) /consumer(s) for the financial years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12..
- (b) Charges for non-compliance of the Renewable Power Purchase obligation by the person concerned.
- (c) Introduction of Renewable Energy Certificate

Explaining the concept behind Renewable Energy Cerificates, the forum was appraised that availability of Renewable Energy Resources in different parts of the country is uneven while some of the states have adequate some more than adequate resources & other states lack in these resources. As such it may not be possible for all the Discoms to fulfill their Renewable Purchase Obligation. In some cases, it is found that the distribution licensees/open access/captive consumers are unable to receive the power generated from the renewable energy sources. In such case, the electricity generated from renewable energy sources if traded through certificates issued for the Renewable Energy will serve the purpose of compliance of such obligation. It is trading like Carbon Emission Reduction Certificate. The CERC has notified draft Regulations on this aspect. There are some limitations in the RECs. The Renewable Energy Generation cost varies for different types of technology and that too for different geographical locations. Similarly in the case of Solar, the project costs and the tariff varies from year to year. The REC issued for the generation of solar projects have different pricing on year to year basis thereby the cost of REC which have higher cost

component for generation of such power, the selling of such REC will needed to be structured differently.

Item No. 7
Demand Side Management (DSM)

Chairman, GERC observed that Demand Side Management (DSM) is an important aspect of overall power system management. To meet the rising demand of power, the utilities on their part are taking steps like generating capacity addition, reduction in system losses, energy audit etc. However, Discoms should also undertake DSM activity seriously.

Demand side management is principally accepted across the world and any saving in energy at consumer premises is equated with energy generated plus reducing the losses to that extent. Thus, the energy saved through DSM is more than the energy generated. It is therefore necessary to adopt the concept of demand side management by the utilities.

The utilities have taken various steps like flattening of load curve, installation of capacitor bank, encourage its drip irrigation system by Agricultural consumers, providing incentive to Agricultural consumers for using energy efficient pumps etc. These steps are supply side management and efficient utilization of the equipments.

As a part of Demand Side Management, utilities need to take initiatives to spread awareness among the consumers about importance of Energy Conservation. Some of the suggested actions in this regard are:

- Efficient utilization of lighting
- Adapt/ change the building design for efficient utilisation of sun light
- Adopt energy efficient pumping system, utilization of friction-less piping, foot valves, etc.
- Adopt drip irrigation system for farming.
- Utilization of appropriate size of motor, transformer and other electrical equipments.
- Efficient utilization of productive system by adopting systematic planning of production cycles, energy consumption by the equipments in energy-intensive industries like steel, cement, aluminum, pulp and paper mills etc.
- Creation of separate special cell by the Discoms for DSM including organizing seminars, workshops etc. for creating awareness among the consumers.

The Forum of Regulators have organized two seminars on demand side management in which the officers of the utilities and the officers of the Commission have participated. The Berkley Laboratory of California have also organized workshop on load forecasting at the Commission's Office in which the officers of the utilities as well as Officers of the Commission participated and learned about load forecasting. The Chairman advised the utilities that it is essential to carry out study on the impact assessment of demand side management and identify the quantum of saving achieved through DSM. The Chief Electrical Inspector informed the forum Members that lot of work on DSM was undertake by the utilities. Many industries have been advised to improve their power

Action to be taken may be asked

factor. It is found that the power factor of these industries has remained more than 0.99% which is helpful in reducing the requirement of active power for these industries. It is expected that more than 500 MW would be saved through DSM. The MD UGVCL informed that they have carried out some study on DSM and copy of the same is also provided to the Commission.

Item No. 8
Complaint Handling by CGRF

The Chairman informed that the Commission has appointed independent members in all the CGRFs. The Commission is also in the process of finalizing the appointment of Ombudsman. Decisions of CGRFs, of policy nature or giving interpretation on rules or regulations can be made applicable to all Discoms after obtaining approval of Apex Coordination committee. Discoms should adopt an in-house arrangement for dissemination of information on various decisions of CGRFs/Ombudsman for uniform implementation of Orders.

May be discussed

Item No.9

Implementation of Action Plan regarding Ring Fencing of SLDC.

MD-GETCO made presentation on ring fencing and autonomy of the State Load Dispatch Centre. He informed that the assets are segregated between GETCO and SLDC and pre-audited accounts are separately created for SLDC. A proposal has been submitted to the Govt of Gujarat for formation of a separate company for SLDC.

Progress in this direction may be discussed

He informed that as per the recommendations of the Task Force, necessary actions were carried out for according autonomy to SLDC in time. The Board consisting of Chairman and Five Members is proposed for the company. The Chairperson of GUVNL is also Chairman of SLDC Company. MDs of GUVNL and GETCO are also Directors of SLDC Company and other functional Directors are also proposed for SLDC Co. This year, SLDC have filed their ARR petition for 2009-10 which was also decided by the Commission in petition no. 976/2009 vide its order dated 14.12.2009.

Chairman, GERC observed that autonomy of SLDC is very important for market development and open access encouragement etc. For this purpose, the organizational structure needs to be designed in a way that it keeps an arms length distance from GUVNL and GETCO, and is perceived by all stakeholders to be autonomous.

Item No. 10
Metering Issues

The Forum of Regulators had constituted a Working Group on Metering Issues. The recommendation of the working group were circulated amongst the members. Chairman of the Commission informed the forum that metering issue is discussed at various forums and it is relevant with reference to the small distributed generation like roof top solar PV generation, small wind mills etc. Metering is essential to carry out energy accounting. Concept of net metering is also being discussed. Roof mounted solar power generators will be allowed to inject power to the Grid and the quantum of power injected into the grid is to be accounted. This will

Maybe reviewed recent development regarding → may be approved

encourage/promote small distributed generators to bring the power into the Grid.

Item No. 11
Standard of Performance (SoP) and RIMS

The Forum of Regulators has engaged consultants for drafting model 'SoP Regulations' and also designing formats for RIMS. Various new items are proposed in the model SoP Regulations. The modified formats for RIMS have already been forwarded to utilities for providing the required details. It is observed that the details of SOP are given on a quarterly basis. It is necessary to compile the same on an annual basis also and shown on the website of the utilities.

May be discussed about annual revision committee in context of our SOP regulations

Item No.12.

Issues raised in the State Advisory Committee meeting

The following were raised in the State Advisory Meeting by the members and were brought to the notice of the Coordination Forum.

1. It was represented that all Distribution Companies recover charges of LT line and transformer as per GUVNL Circular No. 184 dated 8th February 2007 from the domestic and commercial consumers. GUVNL/Discoms may describe the procedure being followed and specify as to whether the above circular is in consonance with the relevant regulations of the Commission.
 - Discoms official stated that they would look into the matter; this point will be discussed in detail when a joint meeting of State Advisory Committee and State Coordination Forum shall be conducted.
2. It was represented by members to allow agriculture consumers to use more than one motor in the same survey number within the limit of contracted load.

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 - Utilities have clarified that they are providing agriculture connection to the consumers based on the load demanded by them. If any extension in the same survey number is allowed and later on the consumer changes the motor pump with higher capacity they will consume higher energy from the system and it will be difficult for the utilities to monitor each and every consumers extension point.

- 3. It was represented that sometimes, staff of the Discoms, while working on the pole, change the phase and polarity of supply and then after during checking, consumers are being booked under Section 126/135 of the Electricity Act, 2003. This is injustice to the consumers.
 - ✗
 - Utilities have clarified that it is observed that the consumers are bypassing the meters and take the power supply by way of theft. Hence they are booked on the 126/135 of the Electricity Act 2003.

- 4. It was represented that priority of release of Agricultural Connections in same category is not maintained. Sample case of Gariadhar sub-division of PGVCL was submitted.
 - ✗
 - PGVCL officials clarified that the information collected under RTI is misrepresented in the sample case.

- 5. Members of State Advisory Committee suggested that at present, the scheme of energy efficient pump sets is launched for HP based tariff only. The scheme should be made applicable to agriculture Connections with metered tariff also. Members are requested to express their views on it.
 - ✗
 - The utilities officials stated that the scheme of energy efficient pumpsets is launched for HP based tariff only by the Govt of Gujarat. To make this scheme applicable to metered pump sets it is necessary that the Govt. should make necessary amendments in the said policy so that the scheme can be extended to other categories also.

- 6. It was represented that the methodology of giving estimate differs among all Discoms. Uniformity should be maintained among all Discoms.
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 - The Chairman, GERC express his views that while giving the estimate uniformity should be maintained among all Discoms.

7. Based on measurement of current on site, supplementary bills are issued under section 126 for unauthorized extension of load. Whether bills raised conform to the provision of section 126 or not is required to be deliberated. If such bills are legal, then capacity of motor should be calculated according to the circular issued by Electricity Commissioner on 13/1/99.
 - This point will be discussed in detail when a joint meeting of State Advisory Committee and State Coordination Forum shall be conducted.
8. Members suggested that in rural area, meters are installed on earthen walls and they may be disturbed by anybody which may result in incorrect recording of the meter. Discoms should install meters, which can record correctly in any physical position.
 - Chairman suggested that, Static meters may be installed or any other solution may be devise by Discoms.
9. Members suggested that as provided in section 26(6) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, third party testing must be introduced in case of complaints about defective meters. In laboratory testing also consumer must be allowed to remain present along with his technical representative.
 - All the Discoms were agreed to look into the matters and take necessary action.

Chairman, GERC observed that it is proposed to organize a joint meeting of the Coordination Committee and State Advisory Committee to address various issues related to power sector in the State.

Shri D.J. Pandian, Chairman-GUVNL & PS-EPD emphasized the need to address the following issues by the utilities.

- To reduce the losses under JGY Scheme Feeders.
- To restrict increase in transmission losses.
- Filing of APR in time as per the directives of the Commission
- To promote Renewable Power Purchase with special emphasis on solar/wind energy projects by adopting various provisions of the policies of GoG as well as the orders/regulations of the Commission.
- To promote Open Access as mandated in the Electricity Act, 2003.

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Minutes of 5th Meeting of Co-Ordination Forum

Dr. P.K. Mishra, Chairman, GERC at the end warmly thanked all members for sparing their valuable time. He also praised Mr. Chuango for making the informative presentation on highlighting the power scenario in Gujarat and Mr. Negi who has made the informative presentation on Ring Fencing of SLDC and Transmission Planning and finally warmly thanked all the members for holding the meeting very successfully and efficiently.

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


SECRETARY