

Minutes of the 16th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 15.10.2012 at Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration, Opp: ISRO, Satellite Road, Ahmedabad.

The following were present in the meeting

1. Dr. P.K.Mishra, Chairman, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
2. Shri Pravinbhai Patel, Member (Technical), Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
3. Dr. M.K.Iyer, Member (Finance), Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
4. Dr. Ketan Shukla, Secretary, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
5. Shri D.J. Pandian IAS, Principal Secretary, Energy & Petrochemicals Department,
6. Shri Jyotindra Patel, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry
7. Shri Shivlal S Barasiya, Rajkot Engineering Industries Association
8. Shri Maganbhai Patel, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh
9. Shri H.D. Desai, Hon. Secretary, Gujarat Khedut Samaj
10. Shri K.K.Bajaj, Executive Director, Consumer Education and Research Society,
11. Shri N Dinkar, Vadodara
12. Shri T.P. Govindan, Director, ERDA
13. Shri V.T. Rajpara, Electricity Ombudsman
14. Shri Raj Gopal, IAS, Managing Director, GUVNL
15. Shri S.B. Khyaliya, Managing Director, MGVCL
16. Shri N. Srivastava, Managing Director, UGVCL
17. Shri H.S.Patel, Managing Director, DGVCL
18. Shri M.B. Jadeja, Executive Director, PGVCL
19. Shri S.K. Negi, Managing Director, GETCO
20. Shri K.H. Chorera, Officer on Special Duty, EPD
21. Shri Hitendra C.Patel, Under Secretary(Power), EPD
22. Shri P.N. Gandhi, Chief Electrical Inspector
23. Shri P.A. Patel, Chief Engineer, SLDC
24. Shri Jagrut Vyas, Executive Director, TPL
25. Shri Chetan Bundela, General Manager, TPL

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 the members of the Advisory Committee and other participants. Thereafter, he requested Dr P.K. Mishra, Chairman, GERC to deliver his introductory remarks and take the meeting forward.

Dr P.K. Mishra welcomed the Members of the Advisory Committee and introduced Shri Raj Gopal IAS, Managing Director, GUVNL as well as Shri S.B. Khyaliya who has taken over as Managing Director, MGVCL. He lauded the contribution of the Advisory Committee and requested the members to give their opinion on the various issues relating to the power sector. He also appreciated the actions taken by DISCOMs for compliance of various decisions and actions initiated for improvement.

Subsequently the agenda items were taken up one by one.

Item No: 1 Approval of the Minutes of the 15th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 26th April, 2012.

The minutes of the 15th meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 26th April, 2012, had been sent to all the members on 15th May, 2012. As no comments have been received from any of the members, the minutes were approved.

Item No: 2 Action Taken Report on the Minutes of 15th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee:

The action report on the minutes of the 15th meeting of the State Advisory Committee was taken up in detail and the item-wise comments and observations of the Members are detailed as below.

Item No.2-2(ii): MD, UGVCL explained that they have contacted an Insurance Company for having a third party insurance to compensate the damage caused to the farmers due to snapping of conductors, etc. They are planning to devise a mechanism so that farmers need not approach court for such compensation as it is in practice at present. In the modified scheme, the damage to the farmers shall be assessed based on the “anavari” and crop

standing on the nearby field. The survey will be conducted by personnel from CEI, DISCOMs and a farmer from the same village or the talati concerned. It was requested to finalize the scheme early after obtaining suggestions from the SAC members. For this, a meeting is scheduled to be held at Mehsana on 22.10.2012. The outcome of the meeting shall be intimated to the Commission. Regarding the 7 cases discussed during the last meeting, he intimated that these are already before the court and cannot be covered under the new scheme.

Item No.2-2(iii): Guideline issued by the Commission for determination of connected load of the agricultural connection through acu-check meters was discussed. Member (T) informed that the efficiency standards adopted in the guideline are in accordance with the Standards prescribed by the BSI.

Item No.2-2(v): The members appreciated the action taken by GUVNL for translation of circulars relating to agricultural connections from English to Gujarati language.

Item No.2-6(1): Almost all the utilities have brought out booklets on the safety aspects including the procedure for giving new connections, the rights of the consumers and such other related issues of the consumers. The Committee appreciated the same and advised the DISCOMs to make these booklets available to the consumers on a wide scale.

Item No.2-6(2): The issue of low voltage in Bopal area and other voltage problems were discussed in detail. MD, UGVCL reported that there was an error committed by the Contractor engaged by UGVCL for the line work due to which upon charging of the line, high voltage occurred causing damage to the appliances of the consumers. As per contract agreement with the contractor, compensation shall be paid by the contractor to the consumers. Formalities for such compensation are under process. Further, he indicated that appropriate steps are being taken to improve the voltage level in Bopal area of Ahmedabad by way of bifurcation of 11 KV Melusan AG Feeder as also creating 66 KV Melusan sub-station in the 12th Five Year Plan some members also opined that there is a need to strengthen the supervisory work of the utility in case of working by contractors in order to avoid incident like Bopal area. On suggestion of Chairman GERC, MD GETCO agreed to take up the 66 KV sub-

station by March 2013. Some of the Members indicated that the electrical accidents and poor voltage problems are mainly due to poor maintenance. Chairman, GERC instructed the utilities to take up the matter seriously and provide proper solution to the voltage problems faced by the consumers.

Item No.2-6(3): MD, GUVNL indicated that he would take up the issue of toll-free complaint booking through IVRS as well other IT integrated services with Prof. Harikrishna Mishra, Institute of Rural Management for further improvement. He will have a meeting with him. All the MDs of the utilities indicated that complaint booking facility is already in place in almost all the companies.

Item No.2-7: The issue of electrical accidents was taken up consequent to the committee report chaired by MD, UGVCL. The position of electrical accidents consequent to the monsoon was discussed and it was found that there is no reduction in the no. of electrical accidents.

Chairman, GERC instructed that it may be worthwhile to analyse the accidents over a period of three years on quarterly basis so as to pin point the real issues leading to such accidents and identify remedial measures.

Item No.2-9: The Members noted that GUVNL has already issued modified guidelines for power boundary extension (extension of premises) and expressed that no difficulty will be faced by the consumers in future.

Item No.8 (1): MD, GUVNL Stated that he shall have a detailed discussion with Prof. Harishkrishna Mishra, IRMA for adopting communication technology to enhance the MIS and other requirements of the utilities and the public at large.

Item No 8(3): Chairman, GERC emphasized that the MDs of all the utilities concerned should monitor the release of new connections as stipulated in the Supply Code continuously.

Item No: 3 Tariff Orders for FY 2012-13

The Members of the Advisory Committee noted the tariff orders for the year 2012-13.

Item No: 4 Regulation on Demand Side Management

Joint Director, GERC explained in brief the salient features of the Demand Side Management Regulations. MD, GUVNL informed that GUVNL has already set up an Apex DSM Group consisting of Sr. Engineers to formulate appropriate DSM measures in consultation with the utilities.

Item No: 5 Fuel Audit of GSECL and TPL stations.

Joint Director, GERC explained in detail about the fuel audit of GSECL and TPL power stations. The members appreciated the efforts taken by the Commission in this regard.

Item No: 6 Comprehensive Third Party Audit of Annual Accounts of State owned DISCOMs and TPL.

Joint Director, GERC explained in detail about the third party audit of DISCOMs and TPL. Members appreciated the efforts made by the Commission in this regard.

Chairman, GERC instructed all the utilities to cooperate with the auditors so as to expedite their report. TPL and GUVNL were asked to expedite the submissions as per the request of the auditors.

Item No: 7 Standard of Performance (SoP) and Monitoring of performance of CGREs

The SoP reports were discussed in detail. It was generally felt that there seems to be no major improvement in the reliability indices or any other parameters such as figures of accidents and failure of distribution transformers etc. MDs of the Distribution companies were asked to concentrate on the various parameters of performance and ensure its improvements.

Item No: 8 Highlight of Wind Tariff Order.

Legal Advisor, GERC explained in detail the salient features of the Wind Tariff Order. Chairman, GERC opined that in view of the poor response to the earlier tariff rate of Rs. 3.56/kWh of the previous order, the rate of Rs. 4.23/kWh given in the new Tariff Order was the outcome of an elaborate exercise to determine a realistic tariff. He also indicated that GUVNL has filed a review petition in this regard which will be taken up for hearing in the near future. Meanwhile, he advised the utilities to take up the PPAs for wind generation so as to fulfill the RPO obligation. Principal Secretary, Energy & Petrochemicals Department, GoG, indicated that the Government has decided to put in place the Policy wherein the old tariff of Rs. 3.56/kWh would be paid to the wind developers till such time the review petition is decided by the Commission.

Item No: 9 Issues raised by the Members

The issues raised by some of the members were discussed as under:

1. CERS suggested withdrawal of demand based tariff for residential consumers of Ahmedabad. The Commission informed that a suo motu petition has been initiated in this regard and suggestions/comments from the consumers are invited.
2. Regarding replacement of old electro-mechanical meters, DISCOMs reported that huge number of such meters are still in operation. The Commission instructed them to devise a roadmap for replacement of such meters with electronic meters in a phased manner.
3. The issue of accidents due to snapping of overhead conductors was discussed during the discussion of SOP.
4. The issue of implementation of 100% metering in agriculture sector was discussed, PS, EPD sought cooperation from the farmers.
5. Regarding indicating security deposit amount in the electricity bill, it transpired that DISCOMs are showing such amount in the bills. It was stated by the DISCOMs that

wherever they do not have any record of such deposit, they have asked the concerned consumer to come with documentary proof of their deposit. On receipt of such proof, deposit amount are being shown in the bill. TPL stated that the security deposit amount is not shown in the bills, as there is no provision in the regulations. However TPL agreed to revise billing format and provides information about existing security deposit amount.

6. Regarding levy of reconnection charge without disconnection of the supply by PGVCL, it was stated by PGVCL that it have instructed the field offices not to collect reconnection charge if connection is not physically disconnected.
7. Regarding release of agriculture connections, MD, GUVNL confirmed that out of one lakh connections planned, 48,000 connections are already released. PS, EPD, stated that out of 48,000 connections released, 40,000 connections are released in the area of PGVCL only. Members suggested that there is large number of agriculture applications pending in the PGVCL area and priority should be given to the PGVCL area whenever targets for releasing connections are fixed. Member further suggested that for solar based pumping system, the State Government should provide 50% subsidy in line with the Rajasthan State Government.

Chairman, GERC, on conclusion, appreciated the valuable contributions made by the Members of the Advisory Committee and hoped that the utilities shall implement the various suggestions made in the meeting. The 16th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Dr.Ketan Shukla
Secretary