GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
GANDHINAGAR

Minutes of the 19th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on
22nd January, 2014

The 19th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee was held in the conference room
at the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission, Gift City, Gandhinagar on 22nd

The following were present in the meeting,

1. Shri Pravinbhai Patel, Chairman, GERC, Gandhinagar.
2. Dr. M.K.Iyer, Member (Finance), GERC, Gandhinagar.
3. Shri Raj Gopal, Managing Director, GUNVL, Vadodara.
5. Shi H. F. Gandharva, Joint Secretary, EPD, Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar.
7. Shri Mehul Dave, Director, Weights & Measurement, Gandhinagar.
8. Shri K. K. Bajaj, Consumer Education & Research Society, Ahmedabad
9. Shri N Dinkar, Vadodara
10. Shri Maganbhai Patel, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh, Gandhinagar.
11. Shri Kirtibhai Amin, President, Pradesh Kisan Vikas Sangh, Patan
14. Shri M. K. Shah, Acting Director, ERDA, Vadodara
15. Shri Devendrakumar Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Western Railway, Mumbai
16. Shri H.S.Patel, Managing Director, DGVCL, Surat.
17. Shri Sandip Kumar, Managing Director, PGVCL, Rajkot.
18. Shri N Shrivastav, Managing Director, UGVCL, Mehsana.
19. Shri S.B. Khyaaliya, Managing Director, MGVCL, Vadodara.
20. Shri S K Negi, Managing Director, GETCO, Vadodara.
21. Shri P. N. Gandhi, Chief Electrical Inspector, Gandhinagar.
22. Shri B.B. Mehta, Chief Engineer, State Load Dispatch Centre, Vadodara.
23. Shri Jagrut Vyas, Executive Director, Torrent Power Limited, Vadodara.
24. Shri P.M. Parmar, Executive Director, GSECL, Vadodara.

Officers of the Commission:

1. Shri D.R.Parmar, Joint Director,
2. Shri S.R.Pandey, Legal Advisor,
3. Shri M.N.Khalyani, Deputy Director (A & A),
4. Shri S. T. Anada, Deputy Director,
5. Shri G. O. Dayalani, Deputy Director,
6. Shri Apurva Adhvaryu, Deputy Director,
Shri M. N. Khalyani, Deputy Director (A & A) welcomed all the Members of the State Advisory Committee and other participants and requested the Chairman, GERC to initiate the proceeding of the committee.

Shri Pravinbhai Patel, Chairman, GERC welcomed the participants and stated that the State Advisory Committee meeting are held regularly and good co-operation was received from members and utilities, and wished that the same will continue. Thereafter, the Chairman took up the agenda items for discussion.

**Agenda No.1: Approval of the minutes of 18th meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 18th July, 2013 at GERC, Gandhinagar.**

The minutes of the 18th meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 18th July, 2013 at GERC, Gandhinagar were sent to all the members. As no comments have been received from any of the members, the minutes were confirmed.

**Agenda Item No.2: Action taken report on the minutes of the 18th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee.**

**Item No. 2.2 (ii):** PGVCL and DGVCL have to finalize the Insurance Policy scheme for crop damage within One Month.

MD, PGVCL informed that they have finalized the insurance policy for crop damage and a press note was published in leading newspapers. MD, DGVCL informed that they have very few number of crop compensation cases. However they have finalized crop compensation policy and it is circulated to all field offices. MD, UGVCL informed that they have received 19 cases of compensation out of which, 11 cases are sanctioned and compensation is paid. Remaining cases were rejected because the crops were not Standing Crop. Shri Maganbhai Patel asked about the reasons for rejections. The Chairman asked MD, UGVCL to discuss the rejected cases with Insurance Company once again and inform about the outcome.

Mr. Dinkar raised the issue of premium amount paid to insurance company and ask weather it is different in the all DISCOMs or uniform for all. It was clarified by the
DISCOMs that premium is fixed as per the local Condition and after detailed discussion with insurance company and as such, uniform premium is not possible.

Chairman, GERC advised DISCOMs to analyse the premium amount paid for such insurance policies and amount paid in settled cases, as per the insurance policy laid down.

2.2.7 The DISCOMs were advised to carry out maintenance activities as a continuous process.

Details of different maintenance activities carried out by DGVCL and UGVCL as per Annexure B and Annexure D of the Agenda were reviewed. MD, PGVCL stated that they have started monitoring daily activities through computerized system, which is helpful to monitor the daily maintenance activity and its progress in the field.

Chairman, GERC asked MD, GUVNL to devise some common format for all DISCOMs to submit the progress of maintenance activities.
(Action: GUVNL & DISCOMs)

Item No. 2.8.(3) : The MDs of all utilities were asked to hold meetings at their level to monitor the release of new connections and submit a report before the next meeting of the advisory committee.

This point was discussed in detail. MDs of all the DISCOMs confirmed that they are regularly reviewing progress of new connection released and pending application. Chairman emphasized that new connections must be released as per time frame provided in SoP Regulations notified by the Commission.

Item No. 2.9(2) : The MDs of utilities were instructed to submit realistic road map for complete replacement of old meters by Static Electronic meter giving priority to replace older meter first.

Planning for replacement of Electro-mechanical meters of all the 4 DISCOM as attached in the Annexure – E was reviewed. MD, MGVCL stated that Electro-
mechanical meters were procured till 2008 and these meters are having guarantee period of ten years. Guarantee period for the last lot of meters purchased in the year 2008, will be up to the year 2018. Now, only static meters are being purchased. The electromechanical meters will be gradually replaced from the system. MD, GUVNL stated that the matter was also discussed with all DISCOMs in the Review Meeting convened by the GUVNL on 06.12.2013. It was emphasized to replace electromechanical meters giving priority in high loss area. He also informed the committee regarding the RF Metering System planned in Maharashtra for next 3 years. These meters are having open protocol system. The meter reader has to visit the premises compulsory for reading the RF meter and data uploaded in computer. Chairman advised for adoption of such technologies after a pilot study of the same. (Action: DISCOMs)

Item No. 9. Shri Kirtikumar Amin stated that Agricultural connection falling under D category should be processed for release as like with C category connection.

MD, GUVNL stated that, this being a policy issue, has been referred to the Energy & Petrochemical Department for taking up the matter at appropriate level of the Government. Chairman suggested that GUVNL may hold meeting with Shri Kiritibhai Amin for deliberation in the matter. (Action: GUVNL)

Item No. 9(2). The Rajkot Industries Association & its members, requested for holding a meeting at the level MD.

MD, PGVCL had informed that the meeting with SAC members was held at Regd. & Corporate office of PGVCL, Rajkot on 18th December 2013 and minutes of meeting circulated. Shri Shivlal Barasia appreciated the efforts of MD, PGVCL where raised by issues Members were discussed and deliberated in detail in the meeting. However, he requested to arrange such meeting regularly. Shri K. K. Bajaj, raised the issue regarding communication gap for the meeting as he received the intimation very late. Chairman directed the utilities to inform the member of SAC well in advance for any such meetings in future.
Item No. 9(3): Shri Maganbhai Patel informed that utilities were not providing 2\textsuperscript{nd} agriculture connection in the same survey number.

Shri Maganbhai Patel sought clarification as to whether the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Agriculture connection in the same survey number is provided or not. He suggested that 2\textsuperscript{nd} motor should be allowed for existing connection. MD, GUVNL informed that, after careful consideration at higher level in Government, it has been decided not to give second electricity connection in same survey number. Chairman directed MD, GUVNL to study the issue for allowing 2\textsuperscript{nd} motor in existing connection. (Action: MD, GUVNL)

Item No. 9(4) MD, GUVNL was asked to take legal opinion on the matter of issuance of additional bill where load is found in excess of contracted load.

MD, MGVCL stated that at present no additional bills under Section 126 are issued to consumers having excess connected load than the sanctioned load except HP tariff based agriculture consumers. However in order to regularize the same, notice is issued. Chairman directed that Chief Electrical Inspector to issue guidelines for uniform procedure to be implemented by distribution licensees for such cases. Chairman GERC also directed DISCOMs to publicize through advertisements regarding load regularization by consumers.

(Action: CEI and DISCOMs)


The Commission informed that Petitions for Review of Business Plan, Truing up and Tariff Determination have been filed by all the utilities. Views and Objections from the various Stakeholders and consumers have been solicited. Hearing on the petition is scheduled on second week of February. A separate intimation shall be sent to all concerned in this regard.
Agenda item No.4: Regulation on demand side management

Chairman, GERC stated that all State Owned DISCOMs as well as TPL are given extension up to 7th February, 2014 for the submission of DSM Plan.
(Action: DISCOMs and TPL)

Agenda Item No.5: Standard of performance (SOP) and monitoring of performance of CGRFs

Chairman, GERC reviewed the SoP data and asked the utility representatives for reasons attributable to accidents. MD, PGVCL stated that they have started many accident prevention activities like action against employee for non-using safety equipment, Safety week arranged along with family members of line staff and other safety awareness programmes. MD, UGVCL stated that most of Fatal Human accidents occur within consumer premises which can be avoided if Proper ELCB is provided by consumers in their premises.

Chairman, GERC asked CEI to prepare and submit the details of accidents occurred within Consumer premises and outside consumer premises for next meeting.
(Action : CEI)

Chairman stated number of complaints redressed at UGVCL in Q2 of 2013-14 were lower as compared to the previous year. Chairman directed the DISCOMs to provide accurate data of SoP. Also, they directed that implementation of CGRF and Ombudsman order shall be reviewed at MD level.
(Action : DISCOMs)

Agenda item No.6: Draft Amendment to RPO Regulations, 2010

The Commission stated that it has received suggestions/objections on the Draft Amendment to RPO Regulation and is studying the same. Based on those suggestions/objections, the Commission will publish the final Amendment to RPO Regulations.
Agenda Item No.7: Draft Amendment to Open Access Regulations, 2011.

The Commission stated that it has received suggestions/objections on the Draft amendment in the GERC (Terms and Conditions of Intra-state Open Access) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2013. The Commission will finalize the amendment in the regulations after studying the objections suggestions.

Agenda Item No.8: Issues raised by the Members:

1. Shri Kirtikumar Amin, Pradesh Kishan Vikas Sang,Patan

   a) He indicated that the priority is given for Tatkal switch over category, whereas other normal Ag. Connection wait for long time to get connection. The requested to give proper attention to other categories also so that the high cost of switch over can be avoided. Chairman, GERC stated that such connections are being provided as per Government Schemes, the Commission cannot interfere in these matters.

   b) He sought proper compensation for the land acquisition for 66KV overhead electric line. MD, GETCO stated that STU has powers to lay electric lines as per provision of Electricity Act 2003 and compensation if any is given as per the crop compensation policy.

   c) There are issues faces by farmers for load extension and its impact on their bills. Chairman advised that he may come with specific case details discuss and the same with MD of DISCOMs.

2. Shri Devendrakumar,Western Railway,Mumbai

   a) He raised the issue of Grid supply failure of feeder to Rly. Traction substation at Navapur, Madhi and Anand areas. MD,DGVCL stated that maintenance work has been carried out and hence interruptions will reduce substantially. He suggested that a meeting can be held with GETCO if the problem persists.
(b) He sought 10% rebate on energy charges for new railway electrification projects of Western Railways in Gujarat. Chairman stated that tariff related issues can be deliberated while analyzing tariff petitions.


   He stated that 2nd Connection in the same survey number must be allowed. Chairman informed that, this issue has already been discussed earlier in the action taken report.

4. Shri K.K. Bajaj, Chief General Manager, CERS raised the issue regarding electrical accidents and old meter replacement. This was discussed at the time of SoP compliance. The issue relating to GERC fees and recognizing groups shall be looked into by the commission.

The meeting was concluded with a Vote of Thanks to the chair.

SECRETARY
GERC