

**MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
OF GERC HELD ON 22ND APRIL, 2015 AT GANDHINAGAR.**

VENUE: CONFERENCE ROOM, GERC, 6th Floor, GIFT-ONE, Road 5-C,
GIFT City, GANDHINAGAR –382355.

DATE & TIME: 22ND APRIL, 2015 AT 11.30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Shri Pravinbhai Patel, Chairman, GERC, Gandhinagar.
2. Dr. M.K.Iyer, Member (Finance) GERC, Gandhinagar.
3. Shri K. M. Shringarpure, Member, GERC, Gandhinagar.
4. Shri Rupwant Singh, Secretary, GERC, Gandhinagar.
5. Shri Shahmeena Husain, Director, GUNVL, Vadodara.
6. Shri K. K. Bajaj, Consumer Education & Research Society, Ahmedabad
7. Shri N. Dinkar, Vadodara
8. Shri Kirtibhai Amin, President, Pradesh Kisan Vikas Sangh, Patan
9. Shri Shivilal S. Barasiya, Rajkot Engineering Industries Association, Rajkot.
10. Shri Jyotindra Patel, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Ahmedabad.
11. Shri P.A. Krishnamoorthy, Deputy Director, ERDA, Vadodara.
12. Shri Sandip Kumar, Managing Director, PGVCL, Rajkot.
13. Shri P. K. Solanki, Managing Director, DGVCL, Surat.
14. Shri S.B. Khyaliya, Managing Director, MGVCL, Vadodara.
15. Shri S. K. Negi, Managing Director, GETCO, Vadodara.
16. Shri Chetan Bundela, General Manager, Torrent Power Limited, Ahmedabad.
17. Shri B.B. Mehta, Chief Engineer, State Load Dispatch Centre, Vadodara.
18. Smt. Medha M. Marathe, Chief Engineer, MGVCL, Vadodara.
19. Smt. S.A. Naik, Chief Engineer, DGVCL, Surat.
20. Smt. C.R. Desai, Chief Engineer, UGVCL, Mehsana.
21. Shri R. M. Bhadang, Chief Finance Manager, GSECL, Vadodara
22. Shri B. J Shah, Staff Officer, Office of the Ombudsman, Ahmedabad
23. The Representative, Western Railway, Mumbai
24. Smt. Alpana Dani, Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, Gandhinagar

MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) OF GERC HELD ON 22ND APRIL, 2015 AT GANDHINAGAR.

STAFF PRESENT:

1. Shri S.T. Anada, I/c Joint Director (Technical)
2. Shri M.N.Khalyani, Deputy Director (A & A)
3. Shri A.U.Adhwaryu, Deputy Director (Tariff)
4. Shri G.O.Dayalani, Deputy Director (Technical)
5. Shri K.M.Thanki, Executive (Technical)
6. Smt. Shabana Dal, Executive (Technical)

The meeting was chaired by Shri Pravinbhai Patel, Chairman, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC). Shri M.N.Khalyani, Deputy Director, GERC welcomed all the members of the State Advisory Committee and other participants and requested Hon'ble Chairman to address the Committee.

Declaring the meeting open at 11.30 AM, Chairman, GERC introduced the new member GERC, Shri K.M.Shringarpure and the new secretary GERC, Shri Roopwant Singh, IAS to the Committee. He expressed his appreciation for the advice and valuable suggestions given by the State Advisory Committee on several important issues facing the sector and the State Commission in particular in the past. He also congratulated GSECL for receiving Prime Minister Award for new initiative for its prestigious & innovative 1 MW Canal Top Solar Power Project at Village Chandrasan (District: Sanand). Referring to day's agenda for the discussion, Chairman hoped to have a fruitful outcome after the meeting.

After the introductory remarks of the Chair, SAC, the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda 1: Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 20th meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 6th August, 2014 at GERC, Gandhinagar were sent to all the members. These minutes

MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) OF GERC HELD ON 22ND APRIL, 2015 AT GANDHINAGAR.

were motioned by the chair, SAC for the approval of the members. The Committee has unanimously agreed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.

Agenda 2: Action Taken Report on Previous Minutes

Issue 1: Agriculture Insurance and Crop Compensation Policies

The Advisory Committee was appraised that all state owned DISCOMs have undertaken or renewed crop insurance policies covering harvested crop at the behest of the resolution of previous meeting. . The Committee desired that the distribution utilities should submit the Crop Compensation Status Report for FY 2014-15 to the Commission. Further, it was also concluded that the DISCOMs shall be submitting such reports half yearly to the Commission from FY 2015-16 onwards.

ACTION: DISCOMs.

Issue 2: Progress Report of Maintenance Activities

The Advisory Committee noted that all state owned DISCOMs have submitted the progress report of maintenance activities in a common format prepared for monitoring of progress of maintenance activities as per the decision of the last meeting. These reports were motioned for the review of the Committee. Chair, SAC underlined that the maintenance activity is a continuous activity and it should be done regularly for the system strengthening and improvement.

Issue 3: Adoption of RF Metering System

The representatives of UGVCL and DGVCL shared the experience of RF metering pilot project with the Committee. It was informed that DGVCL has faced various problems in implementing the project; however UGVCL is attempting to devise its own module to take care of inter-operability with common protocol. Chair, SAC noted the experience and advised GUVNL to examine the experience of DGVCL and UGVCL in this regard and submit the findings to the Commission.

ACTION: GUVNL.

MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) OF GERC HELD ON 22ND APRIL, 2015 AT GANDHINAGAR.

Issue 4: SOP and Performance of CGRFs

The Advisory Committee decided to pursue the issue with Agenda 4 of the meeting.

Issue 5: Pending Agriculture Connection

In the 20th meeting of the SAC, a separate committee was constituted to look into the matter of pendency of new agriculture connection applications along with various issues thereon. Report of the Committee was discussed by the SAC. A presentation was made by Shri S.T.Anada, I/c Joint Director (Technical), GERC summarizing the issues and the recommendations contained in the report which was circulated with the Agenda Note for consideration. A copy of the presentation is enclosed at Annexure-I.

It was brought to the notice of SAC that there was no consensus among committee members on the third recommendation of the committee report, i.e., second agriculture connection in the same survey number can be allowed through installation of solar pump sets or by recovering full cost of distribution infrastructure from the prospective applicant. Shri Sandeep Kumar, MD, PGVCL and Shri Kirtibhai Amin, Member, SAC expressed reservations about such recommendation, as no consensus was arrived at during the meeting of the Committee.

Chair, SAC reviewed the views of the members and resolved that PGVCL should endeavor to clear application registered up to the year of 2008 latest by March, 2016.

ACTION: PGVCL.

Agenda 3: Issues Raised By the Members

The members of the SAC were requested to express their views/suggestions. Briefly, the following views were expressed:

MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) OF GERC HELD ON 22ND APRIL, 2015 AT GANDHINAGAR.

Issue 1:

Shri Shivilalbai Barasia raised the issue of recovery of full cost of 11 KV breaker from the applicant of new/additional load. DISCOMs and GETCO responded that they are recovering charges from such applicant based on the regulations only. It is not provided in the regulation to recovery pro-rata charge of 11 KV breaker to be placed at 66 KV S/S end. It was advised to DISCOMs/GETCO by the Chairman to discuss and clarify this issue to Shri Shivilalbai arranging a meeting with him.

Shri Shivilalbai Barasia of Rajkot Engineering Association reported that the shifting of service connection charges in the same premises and the revised fixed service connection charges are very high. He requested the Chairman, GERC to review such charges. Shri Barasia further suggested that one more Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Association should be included in the Supply Code Review Panel.

Dr. M. K. Iyer, Member, GERC recommended that the said issue should be separately corresponded with the Commission for the deliberation. He further added that all the DISCOMs should submit the details of expenditure incurred and charges levied for shifting of service connection on a case-by-case basis. This recommendation was seconded by the Chair, SAC. On the suggestion of including one more member in the Supply Code Review Panel, it was informed that at present new supply code is under preparation. Current members of SCRCP are actively contributing their view in this regard. Hence, in order to have continuous participation from SCRCP members, it is not desirable to make any change in SCRCP at this stage.

ACTION: DISCOMs.

Issue 2:

Shri K.K.Bajaj of CERS said that Plant Load Factor of state owned GENCO is low, while that of privately owned GENCOs are high. Further, he added that GUVNL favours private GENCOs by procuring more power from them. The representative of GUVNL explained that PLF of GENCOs are not in its control as scheduling to GENCOs are decided by SLDC based on load demand and Merit Order Principles. He

**MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
OF GERC HELD ON 22ND APRIL, 2015 AT GANDHINAGAR.**

further corroborated that GUVNL has never procured power over and above the contracted capacity from any GENCO. GUVNL's explanation was noted by the Committee.

Shri Bajaj further proposed that the Commission should fix the ceiling of FPPPA charges at Rs. 1.80 / Unit. Dr. M.K.Iyer, Member, GERC suggested that there is no requirement to keep ceiling as at some point of time, FPPPA may reduce from the current level which in turn, will benefit the consumers. Shri Patel, Chair, SAC seconded the suggestion made by Dr. Iyer, which was carried unanimously.

Shri Bajaj also recommended that all the DISCOMs should distribute LED lamps in their respective license areas. Representatives of DISCOMs corroborated that they have already submitted their respective Demand Side Management (DSM) plans to the Commission and these have been approved by the Commission after the detailed deliberation. They further reported that their respective DSM programs for LED lamps / EE fans are currently under implementation for public health centers / anganwadi / govt. schools. Chair, SAC noticed the explanation and advised DISCOMs to carry out their DSM programs as expeditiously as possible.

Shri Bajaj raised the issue of tax being demanded by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation on the electric substation building. On the other hand, rent paid by TPL is very low. TPL responded that as per municipality by-laws, electric substation building is not considered under FSI, hence, tax liability of society does not arise. The Chairman advice TPL to take up the matter with AMC though it does not directly pertain to their business as this seems to be a problem of the society at large.

ACTION: TPL

Issue: 3

Issue submitted by Shri Maganbhai Patel was discussed during the meeting. It was stated that the service connection charge of Rs. 1 lakh is approved to recover for a new single phase connection in an agricultural land. It is further stated that such recovery should be based on actual material used and work involved for a

MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) OF GERC HELD ON 22ND APRIL, 2015 AT GANDHINAGAR.

connection. Chair, SAC clarified that the Commission has approved to recover actual cost as per latest cost data subject to maximum amount of Rs. 1 lakh. If the actual cost works out to be less than Rs 1 lakh, lower amount is being recovered from the applicant of single phase connection in agriculture land.

Issue: 4

The representative of Western Railway reported that there are repeated incidences of Grid Supply Failure feeding to various Railway Traction Sub-stations. He further informed that there is a maintenance lapse in the most of transmission lines crossing the railway tracks. Shri Negi, MD, GETCO confirmed that the maintenance at 50 locations out of total 53 locations is already over. The maintenance at remaining 3 locations will be duly completed. Shri Negi further clarified that there is not a single incidence non-availability of power supply due to interruption as there has always been alternate arrangement to feed the Traction Sub-stations.

The Western Railway also suggested DISCOMs and GETCO to convert overhead line crossings up to 33 KV to underground for better safety and reliability at their cost. DISCOMs and GETCO informed that they are willing to modify such crossings to underground; DISCOMs and GETCO expressed their concern over enormous time taken by railway authority for approving railway line crossing proposals submitted by them. GETCO/DISCOMs also demanded waiver of charges recovered by railway for approving such proposals. In reply, the representative of Western Railway reported that since such decisions are taken at their Head Office, he will convey the representations of DISCOMs / GETCO to the Railway Authority.

Chair, SAC resolved a need for greater coordination between Western Railway and GETCO/DISCOMs holding high-level meetings.

ACTION: Western Rly., DISCOMs, GETCO.

Agenda 4: SOP and Monitoring of Performance of CGRFs

Utility wise SOP and CGRF reports were motioned for the review of the Committee. Chair, SAC observed that fatal human and animal accidents are still very high across DISCOMs. He further remarked that failure of transformer in PGVCL is very high

MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) OF GERC HELD ON 22ND APRIL, 2015 AT GANDHINAGAR.

comparatively. Shri Sandeep Kumar, MD, PGVCL reported the failure of transformers is being analyzed regularly and it is observed that major failure is of smaller capacity transformers due to overloading. Chair, SAC stressed on continuous periodic efforts to reduce incidence of transformer failure and accidents.

ACTION: All DISCOMs.

Agenda 5: Issues for Information of the Committee : Tariff Orders for FY 2015-16

Chairman, GERC informed the Committee about the newly issued Tariff Orders for the four state owned DISCOMs and Torrent Power Ltd. He informed that there is no increase not only in power tariff for BPL and Agriculture consumers but also in tariff for the first 200 units of monthly consumption by Residential consumers. He further added that overall increase for all the other categories of consumers is 13 paise per unit for state owned DISCOMs and 15 paise per unit for TPL.

Draft Supply Code 2014

It was informed to the Committee that the comments from various stakeholders are received on the Draft. The Commission will take an appropriate view while finalizing the new supply code.

Agenda 6: Any Other Item with the permission of Chair

Shri Roopwant Singh, Secretary, GERC highlighted the fact that India ranked very low at 142nd out of 189 economies in the ease of doing business referring to the report on “*Doing Business 2015: Going beyond efficiency*”, published by the World Bank Group. Shri Singh further informed that this ranking of economies was done comparing regulations affecting 10 areas of activities of a Business and ‘*getting electricity*’ was one of the indicators. Shri Singh therefore, specifically urged all the DISCOMs to focus on consumer oriented services and spread the awareness thereof.

Referring to day’s meeting, he expressed gratitude for the suggestions given by the Members, SAC. He also requested that they should suggest important topics with

**MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
OF GERC HELD ON 22ND APRIL, 2015 AT GANDHINAGAR.**

brief description which the Commission can take up for discussion in future meetings of the Advisory Committee.

With no further business to come before the SAC, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.45 pm.

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


(M.N. Khalyani)
Deputy Director (Admin & Accounts)