

**GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
GANDHINAGAR**

MINUTES OF 28TH MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date : **22.04.2026** Time : **11:30 AM**
Venue : Radisson GIFT City Club, Gandhinagar

At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman, GERC, welcomed all the members of the State Advisory Committee. After brief introduction of all the participants, discussion took place on agenda items.

Agenda Item No. 1: Approval of the minutes of the 27th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 27th August 2023.

Minutes of 27th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee (SAC) held on 29.08.2023, circulated to the members of SAC vide letter dated 09.10.2023, were confirmed as no comments were received from any of the members.

Agenda Item No. 2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 27th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee

Members were apprised about the issues deliberated during 27th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee and directives issued to the utilities on the basis of discussions. Action Taken Reports received from the concerned entities on the minutes of 27th Meeting of the SAC were discussed.

Item No. 2.1: Levy of property tax on electricity network by Municipal Corporation in Torrent Power Limited's license area

In this regard, the representative of the Energy & Petrochemicals Department (EPD), Government of Gujarat (GoG), stated that the matter has been placed before the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), and a meeting is proposed to be convened shortly.

(Action: EPD, TPL)

Item No. 2.4: Review of Electrical Accidents

During the discussion on the review of electrical accidents, Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL) submitted that it examines each accident individually, identifies its root cause, and prepares a plan to reduce such accidents and conducts safety awareness programs at the field level.

Dr. Naran Pindariya from IIT Gandhinagar submitted that a study was undertaken on open conductors to identify the root causes of major accidents. The Commission directed that the relevant data of the said study be shared with GUVNL for necessary action at their end.

Dr. Satish from Electrical Research & Development Association (ERDA) submitted that to reduce accidents safety audits are regularly conducted by a third party. In this regard, Torrent Power Limited (TPL) submitted that they carry out regular safety inspection in their premises.

The Commission advised that issues related to accident, safety audit and its impact and action taken report will be discussed in next meeting. GUVNL and Torrent to appraise the Committee through presentation.

(Action: IIT-Gandhinagar, All Distribution Licensees)

Agenda Item No. 3: Regulations notified by the Commission

The Committee was apprised about various regulation notified by the Commission after the 27th Meeting of the SAC. Further, the Committee was apprised about various orders on Tariff Framework for procurement of power by distribution licensees and other from wind-solar and storage, hybrid projects for the State of Gujarat and also on Tariff Framework for procurement of power by distribution licensees and others from Municipal Solid Waste to Energy projects in the State of Gujarat.

The Committee was informed that before notifying the Regulations, a public notice is given in newspapers, and draft regulations are also circulated to the Members of the SAC for their consideration and comments. The inputs received from the Members of SAC as well as other stakeholders are duly considered while finalizing the regulations. The Commission acknowledged the active participation of the Committee Members and conveyed that such consultative practices will continue in future. The Commission highlighted the notification of the GERC (MYT) Regulations, 2024, noting that several innovative provisions have been introduced in the interest of both consumers and licensees.

Dr. Naran Pindariya from IIT Gandhinagar submitted that recent amendments in the Right of Consumer Rules provide a baseline framework to support demand response, particularly with the rollout of Time of Use (ToU) tariffs. The concept of Demand Response Systems and Demand Flexibility Portfolio Obligation was emphasized, highlighting the need to transition from a capacity-centric approach to a system-centric approach. It was suggested that consumer participation, particularly from Commercial and Industrial (C&I) segments, can play a significant role in demand-side management. Thermostatically controlled loads such as air conditioners and geysers, along with EV charging infrastructure, were identified as potential sources of demand-side flexibility. It was suggested that business and technological models be developed to promote such flexibility mechanisms. The possibility of leveraging consumer flexibility for peak power management instead of undertaking network asset augmentation was also highlighted. A study on demand response was also conducted for the period 2018–2023

by IIT Gandhinagar.

The Commission requested IIT Gandhinagar to submit the said report. Further, it was informed that directives have been issued in the recent Tariff Orders to Discoms to undertake demand response studies and to submit detailed reports in this regard.

TPL submitted that consumption patterns in its license area differ from those observed in European countries, limiting the scope for demand-side flexibility. Feedback from C&I consumers indicated operational constraints in shifting loads, particularly for continuous process industries. It is observed that only limited loads, such as office-related consumption, could be shifted to non-peak hours. Based on internal analysis, limited opportunities for demand response were identified, and hence focus is being placed on supply-side management.

GUVNL submitted that implementation of Demand Response Systems and Demand Flexibility Portfolio Obligation requires enabling infrastructure such as ToU mechanism, smart meters, and consumer-facing applications. A pilot project is being planned with respect to usages of mobile applications for consumer interaction, and also implementation of smart plug systems for remote load control. Insights from the pilot will guide further implementation of demand response mechanisms.

(Action: All Discoms)

Agenda Item No. 4: Tariff Orders issued by the Commission

The Committee was apprised about changes made in the recent Tariff Orders of State Owned Discoms like rebate on Pre-paid smart meter, Time of Use (ToU) Discount - modification in conditionality of ToU discount is carried out with an intent to pass on the benefit of cheaper solar power available in the grid during daytime to the end consumers, Time of Use (ToU) charges - ToU charges shall be levied only if meter with ToD recording facility is provided so that while levying ToU charges, the consumers shall get ToU Discount also and reduction in Green power Tariff.

Shri D. S. Doshi from Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCI) informed that still no Discoms have provided benefit of ToU Discount to any consumer. Discoms were directed to apprise the Committee about the status of the Time of Use (ToU) Discount made available to the consumers.

Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited (DGVCL) submitted that due to certain software configuration changes in smart meters, the benefit of ToU discount was not extended to consumers. However, DGVCL has assured the Commission that the ToU discount benefit will be made applicable to smart meter consumers with effect from 01.05.2026.

TPL informed that the changes made in recent Tariff Order have already been implemented with effect from 01.04.2026.

The Commission directed all State-owned Discoms to invariably implement the revised tariff terms specifically with respect to ToU Discount provided under the Tariff Orders. The Discoms assured that the ToU discount benefit shall be made available applicable to eligible consumers.

Further, the Commission also advised Discoms to carry out awareness programs like Gram Sabha, digital awareness campaign, etc. regarding changes in tariff and the benefits of smart meters, so that end user shall be benefited from this.

(Action: State-owned Discoms)

Agenda Item No. 5: Representation of Members / Consumers for discussion during the meeting

(1) Representation from Gujarat Krushi Vij Grahak Suraksha Sangh (GKVGSS)

Representative from GKVGSS was not present during the meeting. GKVGSS had represented before the Commission for increasing the number of offices of the Electricity Ombudsman. Discoms were asked to present their views in this regard.

It was noted that the number of representations before the Electricity Ombudsman has not increased significantly due to increase in number of CGRFs. It was further noted that the Electricity Ombudsman - Ahmedabad is also conducting hearings at Surat, thereby effectively catering to the requirement. In view of the above, no immediate requirement for establishment of an additional Electricity Ombudsman was observed.

(2) Representation from Rajkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI)

Representative from RCCI was not present during the meeting. RCCI has represented before the Commission that the Commission has granted the benefit of per Kilometre cost calculation in case of applications need laying or extension of the HT Line. However, this cost calculation benefits should equally be extended to the existing LT consumers intending conversion from LT to HT or extension in existing HT connection. Discoms were asked to present their views in this regard

Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited (PGVCL) informed that the said issue is already resolved.

(3) Representation from Bhavnagar District Chamber of Commerce & Industries (BDCCI)

Representative from BDCCI was not present during the meeting. However, the point-wise submissions made vide letter dated 16.01.2026 were taken on record and discussed with the concerned utilities.

(i) Distribution Cables from all sub-stations under Bhavnagar Circle Office for distribution to customers are very old and damaged resulting in faults and tripping of power. Representations are made several times to change such cables.

- PGVCL informed that a detailed report in this regard will be submitted in due course.

(Action: PGVCL)

(ii) Work for establishing 220 kVA Maglana sub-station near Sihor-Ghanghli Road, which is an Industrial Belt, is going on since year 2022 and new HT connections are not given as Maglana sub-station is not being charged.

- GETCO informed that the work is expected to be completed within 20 days and that delays were primarily due to Right of Way (RoW) issues.

(Action: GETCO)

(iii) GETCO is going to start one new Zonal Office and Four Circle Offices. Regarding this decision of GETCO, it is suggested to establish Zonal Office and One Circle office at Bhavnagar. Board of GETCO has accepted this demand and has sent the proposal to Energy & Petrochemicals Department, Government of Gujarat, for due sanction. It is requested to take necessary steps to expedite necessary sanction from the Government.

- The representative of EPD informed that the proposal is under consideration.

(Action: EPD, GETCO)

(iv) Though there is a Zonal Office of PGVCL at Bhavnagar with Addl. Chief Engineer as its head, for the first time PGVCL has withdrawn powers of this Zonal Office to Sanction new connections and now Corporate Office is sanctioning new Power Connections for Bhavnagar Zone. This is time consuming and delays release of connections. There is no meaning of establishing Zonal Office if it has no powers even to sanction new connections. The reasons for curtailing powers of zonal office can't be understood.

- PGVCL submitted that the representation pertains to the earlier mechanism wherein applications were routed through the Circle Office to the Zonal Office and thereafter to the Corporate Office. At present, applications are directly routed from the Circle Office to the Corporate Office for the sake of uniformity. PGVCL further stated that there is no delay in processing of applications and that all applications are processed within the stipulated timelines as per SOP.

(v) In every distribution zone and transmission zone, an advisory committee comprising of various groups of stakeholders should be established to solve various issues at local level.

- The Commission has noted the suggestion. However, at present, the Commission does not consider it necessary to constitute advisory committees at the distribution zone and transmission zone levels.

(vi) Recently, PGVCL is accepting payment only through online mode along with, load applications for new connections extensions, etc. Such provision is cumbersome and non-feasible for small applicants. There is provision in supply code of GERC for making payment through online and offline modes. Applications and all payments should be allowed offline also.

- TPL submitted that considering that certain consumers may not have access to online facilities, applications are being accepted by TPL through both online and offline modes.

GUVNL and PGVCL submitted that the online portal system facilitates reduction in delays and enhances transparency. GUVNL further submitted that such facilities have also been extended through Gram Panchayat e-Gram Seva Kendra and CSC centres.

Other issues raised by Members:

(1) Issues raised by Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCI)

(a) It was submitted that substation bifurcation work is not being carried out with proper load management in an efficient manner, and a circular may be issued in this regard for ensuring proper implementation.

- The Commission advised GCCI to make a detailed submission before the concerned Discom for examination and furnishing its response.

(b) It was submitted that clarification is required regarding the methodology of HTVR calculation, particularly whether the constants used in the calculation are being updated.

- GUVNL informed that HTVR calculations are carried out through the 'GeoUrja' system and that the constants used therein are updated periodically.

(2) Issue raised by IEX:

Representative from Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) raised the points regarding the alignment of State regulations with National mandates. It was noted that while Gujarat has

successfully notified Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets within its existing regulations, there is a transition toward Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) as per the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022. The member suggested that the Commission should move toward notifying RCO targets in line with the Ministry of Power (MoP) notification (dated 20.10.2023). This alignment is essential to create a unified framework for carbon credit markets and to ensure that “obligated entities” in the State are compliant with the evolving national standards for green energy consumption

In reply, TPL submitted that based on developments as of early 2026, the primary matter under “sub-judice” or intense legal and regulatory ambiguity involves the conflict between the new Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) framework and the existing Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) regulations. While RCO (under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, updated 2022) is intended to supersede RPO (under the Electricity Act, 2003), both are currently operating in parallel, creating legal friction. RCO (Central-driven) and RPO (State-driven) operate under separate statutes, leading to scenarios where a designated consumer might be compliant under one but non-compliant under the other. The core issue is the validity of the RCO framework over existing RPO frameworks and the legal enforcement of its penalties under Section 26 of the Energy Conservation Act.

Reference was also made by IEX to the introduction of Electricity Derivatives. It was highlighted that while other states have initiated pilot studies to evaluate the hedging of price risks through derivatives, Gujarat should consider similar pilot projects. This would allow Discoms to manage long-term power procurement costs more effectively against price volatility on the exchanges.

(3) Issue raised by IIT Gandhinagar:

Representative from IIT Gandhinagar provided insights into modernizing the retail tariff structure to enhance grid stability. The member proposed the implementation of Demand-Flexibility-linked tariffs. The discussion centered on the shift from static Time-of- Day (ToD) tariffs to more dynamic models that reward “Demand Response.”

It was argued that while the impact of a single consumer shifting their load (e.g., moving non-essential appliance usage from peak to off- peak hours) might appear marginal, the aggregated effect across a large consumer base is significant.

By incentivizing collective load shifting, the State can achieve substantial “Peak Shaving.” This reduces the reliance on expensive “peaker” plants and high-cost short-term power purchases from the exchange, ultimately leading to a reduction in the overall peak prices for all consumers.

Representative of IIT Gandhinagar has offered to provide the study reports on the subject matter conducted by IIT Gandhinagar to GUVNL for consideration and study so that they can put forward suitable recommendation on the subject matter.

In this regard IIT Gandhinagar is requested to submit the study report to the Commission and GUVNL.

(Action: IIT-Gandhinagar, State-owned Discoms)

Agenda Item No. 6: Standard of Performance of Distribution Utilities for FY 2024-25

Brief review of Standard of Performance of Distribution Utilities was taken up. The Commission directed the Distribution Utilities to prepare an action plan and take necessary action accordingly for reducing reliability index quarterly, so that overall financial performance is improved.

The Commission suggested to take representations of consumers positively and timely resolutions should be ensured.

(Action: All Distribution Licensees)

Hon'ble Chairman, GERC, thanked the members of the SAC for their participation and valuable suggestions in the meeting.

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

Sd/-
(Ranjeeth Kumar J., IAS)
Secretary
Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
Gandhinagar

List of Participants

Hon'ble Chairman, Hon'ble Members & Secretary of the Commission:

1. Shri Pankaj Joshi, IAS, Chairman, GERC
2. Shri Hiren N. Shah, Member, GERC
3. Shri Jatin N. Thakkar, Member, GERC
4. Shri Ranjeeth Kumar J., IAS, Secretary, GERC

Members / Representatives of State Advisory Committee:

1. Shri Ashish Vala, Jt. Secretary, EPD
2. Shri Harshil Ranapariya, Under Secretary, EPD
3. Shri Vinas V. Godhariya, ETA to PS, EPD
4. Shri K. M. Patel, Dy. Chief Electrical Inspector
5. Dr. Satish Chetwani, Director, Electrical Research & Development Association
6. Dr. Naran M Pindoriya, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar
7. Shri Manish Kumar Singh, Manager-Traction, Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
8. Shri Rishabh Shah, Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
9. Shri D. S. Doshi, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry
10. Shri Jinesh Jain, Confederation of Indian Industries
11. Shri R. K. Patel, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh
12. Shri Manish Panchal, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh
13. Shri Pranav Doshi, Federation of Gujarat Industries
14. Shri Saurabh Shrivastav, Indian Energy Exchange

Representatives of Utilities:

1. Mrs. Shalini Agrawal, IAS, MD, GUVNL
2. Shri Ketan Joshi, IAS, MD, PGVCL
3. Shri N. F. Chaudhari, IAS, MD, UGVCL
4. Shri C M Bundela, ED, TPL
5. Shri R.J. Vala, CE, GUVNL
6. Shri M. G. Surati, CE, DGVCL
7. Shri R. G. Nagariya, CE, MGVCL
8. Shri Sanjay Tavilyad, CE, MGVCL
9. Shri K. B. Shah, CE, PGVCL
10. Shri J. R. Chaudhari, CE, UGVCL
11. Shri M. J. Vasava, CE, GETCO
12. Shri Milap Doshi, SE, PGVCL
13. Shri P. P. Shah, SE, GETCO
14. Shri S. N. Parmar, EE, PGVCL
15. Shri J. D. Trivedi, EE, GETCO
16. Shri B. D. Patel, DE, DGVCL
17. Shri Hetal Patel, DGVCL
18. Shri K. B. Chaudhari, UGVCL

19. Shri Vijay Bhandari, UGVCL
20. Shri Chirag Chaudhari, JE, GUVNL
21. Mrs. Luna Pal, GM, TPL
22. Shri Rahul Dubey, AM, TPL

Officers of the Commission:

1. Shri S. T. Anada, Joint Director, GERC
2. Shri A. U. Adhwaryu, Deputy Director, GERC
3. Shri V. T. Patel, Deputy Director, GERC
4. Mrs. Sakshi Kheskwani, Joint Secretary, GERC
5. Shri J. S. Makwana, IT Manager, GERC
6. Shri Santosh Asipu, Assistant Director, GERC
7. Shri H. H. Chorasiya, Assistant Director, GERC
8. Shri R. R. Musa, Executive, GERC
9. Shri B. S. Kushwaha, Executive, GERC