

Minutes of the 15th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 26.4.2012 in the Conference Room, Circuit House (Annexe), Shahibaug, Ahmedabad.

The following were present in the meeting

- 1 Dr. P.K.Mishra, Chairman, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
- 2 Shri Pravinbhai Patel, Member (Tech), Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
- 3 Dr. M.K.Iyer, Member (Fin), Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
- 4 Dr. Ketan Shukla, Secretary, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission
- 5 Shri A.M. Mankad, IAS, Jt Secretary, Food & Civil Supply & Consumer Affairs Deptt.
- 6 Shri Jyotindra Patel, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- 7 Shri Shivlal S Barasiya, President, Rajkot Engineering Industries Association
- 8 Shri Maganbhai Patel, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh
- 9 Shri H.D. Desai, Gujarat Khedut Samaj
- 10 Prof. Harikrishna Mishra, Institute of Rural Management,
- 11 Shri K.K.. Bajaj, Consumer Education and Research Society,
- 12 Shri N Dinkar, Vadodara
- 13 Shri Kirtikumar J.Amin, Pradesh Kisan Vikas Sangh
- 14 Dr Omkar Jani, Gujarat Energy Research & Management Institute
- 15 Shri V.T. Rajpara, Electricity Ombudsman
- 16 Shri Mukesh Puri, IAS, Managing Director, GUVNL
- 17 Shri A.N.Khatri, Managing Director, MGVCL
- 18 Shri N. Srivastava, Managing Director, UGVCL
- 19 Shri S.B. Khyalia, Executive Director (Fin), GUVNL
- 20 Shri Gurdeep Singh, MD, GSECL
- 21 Shri K.H. Chorera, Dy. Secretary, EPD
- 22 Shri Chetan Bundela, General Manager, TPL
- 23 Shri Sachin Oza, Executive Director, Development Support Centre
- 24 Shri P.N. Gandhi, Chief Electrical Inspector
- 25 Shri D.C. Parmar, Chief Engineer, UGVCL
- 26 Shri P.A. Patel, GETCO, SLDC
- 27 Shri J.N. Panchauli, Asst. Chief Engineer, GETCO
- 28 Shri T.R. Oza, Technical Advisor, Khedut Samaj, Bhavnagar
- 29 Shri V.S. Tankshari, TPL, Ahmedabad
- 30 Shri Shailesh R Desai, Torrent Power Ltd, Surat
- 31 Ms Deepa Sharma, Confederation of Indian Industry
- 32 Er. Himanshu Chudasma, Confederation of Indian Industry
- 33 Luna Pal, Torrent Power Ltd.
- 34 Shri Amit Sachan, GETC
- 35 Smt. A.S. Dani, Office of CEI
- 36 Shri N.N. Shaikh, Exe. Engineer (Com), SLDC, Vadodara
- 37 Shri Kamal Sindhi, Dy Engineer, UGVCL
- 38 Shri B.V. Shah, ACE, DGVCL
- 39 Shri M.P. Trivedi, Exe. Engineer, MGVCL

- 40 Shri Y.B. Sukhadia, ACE, MGVCL
- 41 Shri R.S. Sharma, ACE, MGVCL
- 42 Shri Y.D. Brahmhatt, SE (Tech), GUVNL

Officers from GERC and other utilities were also present.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. P.K.Mishra, Chairman, and GERC.

Dr. Ketan Shukla, Secretary, GERC welcomed the members of the Advisory Committee and appreciated the presence of all the Members of the Committee, including the invitees. He also expressed his condolence on the sad demise of Shri Bavchandbhai Dhamelia, President, Gujarat Khedut Samaj, who was a member of the Advisory Committee and put on record his deep appreciation of the immense contribution made by Shri Bavchandbhai Dhamelia in the meetings of the Advisory Committee. He then requested Dr P.K. Mishra, Hon'ble Chairman, GERC to deliver his address.

Dr P.K. Mishra in his address stated that although there had been a some delay in holding the Advisory Committee Meeting, there has been good progress in compliance of the various decisions taken during the previous meeting. He further expressed his heartfelt condolence on the sad demise of Shri Bavchandbhai Dhamelia, President, Gujarat Khedut Samaj, who was an active member of the State Advisory Committee. He lauded his contribution to the Advisory Committee which had far reaching implications for the power sector. Before taking up the agenda items, he suggested that the Advisory Committee should observe one minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

Shri H.D. Desai of Gujarat Khedut Samaj who has been nominated in place of late Shri Bavchandbhai Dhamelia, expressed his thanks on behalf of himself and the Khedut Samaj for recognizing late Shri Bavchandbhai Dhamelia's contributions to the deliberations of the Advisory Committee.

Then the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Item No: 1 Approval of the Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 6th April, 2011:

The minutes of the 14th meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 26th November, 2011 at Gandhinagar had been sent to all the members. As no comments have been received from any of the members, the minutes were confirmed.

Item No: 2 Action Taken Report on the Minutes of 14th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee:

The action taken report on the minutes of the 14th meeting of the State Advisory Committee was discussed in detail and the following aspects emerged out of each of the items.

- 2(ii) Chairman, GERC sought members' opinion on the report of the GUVNL on the Discomwise details of the number of cases detected in respect of the crop damage due to line faults during the last five years and the compensation paid by the Discoms. He also referred to Annexure-I wherein it was observed that the amount of compensation paid is for a very small number of cases as compared to the cases already lodged for such compensation. He also noted that UGVCL has not been able to settle even a single case despite having Insurance Policy. Some of the members pointed out that there is no policy of giving compensation to the farmers in case of crop damage due to line faults of the Discoms. All the settlements are done only after the same are referred to the civil court and the verdict for the same is received. Members observed that it is not correct for the Discoms to deny compensation and wait for the court's order. MD, GUVNL indicated that as per the present scheme of things, there is no direct method of compensation payable to the farmers whose crops are damaged due to line faults of the Discoms and they have to resort to civil suits to get appropriate compensation. However, he suggested that in order to facilitate proper and fair compensation it will be necessary to constitute a committee to go into the entire gamut of compensation and to come out with a specific policy or scheme for the same. The committee shall be formed by GUVNL

and would include representatives from the distribution companies and eminent experts in the field to formulate the scheme. Chairman, GERC advised MD, GUVNL to include some of the members of the Advisory Committee for their views. MD, GUVNL assured that once the outline of the scheme is finalized the same will be circulated to all the members of the Advisory Committee for their valuable suggestions. It was also decided that Shri Dinkar, member of the Advisory Committee shall also be included as a member of the Committee for the above purpose. The first report of the committee shall be available for discussion within a month's time.

MD, UGVCL indicated that the seven cases relating to United India Insurance Company have not been settled as there were some procedural requirements which are not fulfilled by the applicants. Chairman, GERC directed UGVCL to compute the compensation claim within a period of one month and report the same to the Commission.

The issue of taking insurance policy to protect the farmers' interest was discussed in detail and it was concluded that the same will be explored as a part of compensation committee report for uniformity on the issue and the same shall be taken up by GUVNL.

(Action: GUVNL/Discoms)

- 2(iii) The report of the Chief Electrical Inspector was discussed threadbare. It was noted that there was no consensus on the circular of CEI of 1999. CEI indicated that he had wide range of discussions with all the members of the committee constituted for the purpose of analyzing the circular of 1999 relating to consideration of motor efficiency while calculating the connected load of the agricultural pump. He stated that the circular of CEI was appropriate and it is in line with the Indian Standard 325 wherein efficiency of motor upto 50 KW was 15%, and 10% for motors above 50 KW. However, the representatives of the Discoms opposed the same as it would have an effect on the T&D losses. After a long discussion and as there was

no consensus on the report it was decided that the Commission would examine from the appropriate legal point of view to resolve the issue.

With reference to the discussion held at the level of Member (T) relating to the grievance of the farmers on the applicability of sections 126 and 135, it was observed that all the Discoms are complying with the minutes of the meetings and the same are circulated to the distribution substations for implementation. Shri Kirtibhai Amin indicated that the Discoms were not following the above in certain cases. It was decided that Shri Kirtibhai Amin would take up the matter with the concerned Discoms for resolving the issue.

(Action: DISCOMs)

- 2(v) GUVNL submitted a compilation of all the circulars relating to the agricultural connection. This action was appreciated by the Members, but it was found that the same contains mixed circulars both in English and vernacular language. It was felt that all the relevant circulars should be translated into Gujarati language, compiled and placed even on the website for the convenience of the consumers.

(Action: GUVNL)

- 6(1) MGVCL provided a set of booklet on safety aspects, procedure for new connection, Grahat Adhikar Patra and Energy Conservation etc. to all the members of the State Advisory Committee. The action of MGVCL was appreciated by all the members. Chairman suggested that the same should be broadened to include other areas especially the rights of the consumers. All the Discoms should prepare such materials to include not only domestic consumers, but also other consumers such as agricultural etc.

During the discussion, it was also felt that the consumer awareness programme should be initiated so that the consumer is aware of the do's and don'ts relating to the electricity sector. Prof. Harikrishna Mishra, Institute

of Rural Management expressed his willingness to undertake a pilot project. In this regard, he also invited other NGOs present in the meeting to take initiatives and see that the consumers are well educated on the various aspect of electricity usage.

(Action: MGVCL and other DISCOMs)

- 6(2) A detailed discussion was held on the issue of variation in supply voltage at the consumer premises especially with reference to tail voltage which some time results in damaging the equipments. Shri Kirtibhai Amin indicated that there were some villages which face such problem. Shri K. K. Bajaj of CERS also indicated that there have been severe voltage problems in the area of Bopal, Ahmedabad, which is required to be looked into seriously. Chairman suggested that the matter may be taken up with the respective Discoms for solution. However, proper action for ensuring proper grid voltage should be taken up by the concerned utilities.

(Action: DISCOMs/Utilities)

- 6(3) All Discoms confirmed that they have toll-free complaint booking facility. M.D, GUVNL pointed out that under the ERPDRP scheme of the Central Government the same is being taken up. Prof. Harikrishna Mishra, Institute of Rural Management suggested that the same should be made more effective through IVRS which is being adopted by many of the organizations and Telecom companies.

(Action: GUVNL)

- 6(4) MGVCL reported that it has started to replace the faulty meters except for Godhra where it will be done in a phased manner with proper police protection and complete the replacement activity as early as possible.
7. With regard to the direction to CEI to give a detailed report on the accidents and also the committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri N. Srivastava, MD GUVNL, it was found that a detailed report in this regard has been prepared and circulated. The report was appreciated as it analyzed the

causes of various accidents, both fatal and non-fatal, and it was suggested that the suggestions should be implemented before the ensuing monsoon.

(Action: DISCOMs/Utilities)

9. Regarding preparation of booklet for guidance of the consumers on the unauthorized use of electricity, it was informed by the licensees that they have printed information about the provisions of sections 126 and 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003 in vernacular language on the electricity bill. Further regarding checklist, PGVCL informed that the guidelines are prepared specifically for processing application related to boundary extension. While discussing the guidelines prepared, it is felt that the word 'amalgamation' needs to be clarified or modified. Accordingly, GUVNL has agreed to bring clarity in the guidelines and revised guidelines/circular in this regard shall be sent to the Commission in due course.

(Action: GUVNL)

Item No. 3: Model Regulations on Demand Side Management.

Chairman, GERC indicated that draft Regulation on DSM was circulated amongst the Discoms whose comments have been received by GERC. GERC shall notify the DSM Regulations shortly. Shri Dharmendra R Parmar, Jt. Director explained some of the provisions of the draft DSM Regulations to the members of the Advisory Committee.

Item No.4: Tariff Order for FY 2012-13

Chairman, GERC indicated that the tariff petitions of GETCO, GSECL, SLDC, MPSEZ, KPT and TPL were filed for the true up of FY 2010-11 and determination of tariff for the year 2012-13. However, as no petitions were filed by state owned DISCOMs despite the extension of time limit granted by the Commission, suo-motu proceedings have been initiated by the Commission in respect of these Discoms.

The Commission has already issued tariff order in respect of GETCO and SLDC. Hearings in the case of Discoms have been slated to be held on 7.5.2012.

Item No.5: Highlight of Solar Tariff order

Chairman, GERC pointed out that looking to the trends in the price, a comprehensive and new solar tariff order has been issued by the Commission which shall be effective for a period of three years. Dr Omkar Jani, GERMI indicated that the tariff order of the Commission shall go a long way in encouraging rooftop solar project in the State and there is considerable progress in the rooftop project at Gandhinagar.

Item No.6: Standard of Performance (SoP)

The SoP report of the utilities for Quarter-3 was discussed. It was observed that efforts are being made by the utilities to ensure compliance with the SoP to improve the performance. Shri Pravinbhai Patel, Member (Tech), GERC observed that the number of complaints in the case of TPL Ahmedabad is quite high. Shri Chetan Bundela, General Manager, TPL indicated that all complaints are registered, whether it is minor or major, and disposed of within the time limit prescribed. It was also observed that there has been reduction in the failure of distribution transformers, the same should be brought down further.

(Action: DISCOMs)

Item No.7: Fuel Audit of GSECL and TPL-power station for FY 2010-11

Chairman, GERC indicated that a comprehensive fuel audit of GSECL and TPL power stations for the year 2010-11 has been taken up by the Commission by appointing M/s Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt Ltd. to analyze all the submissions made by the utilities in relation to FPPPA charges which have gone up in the recent times. M/s Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt Ltd. shall examine in detail the method of computation of cost of fuel and such other related issues.

Item No. 8: Issues raised by the Members

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

1. Prof. Harikrishna Mishra, Institute of Rural Management suggested that adoption of communication technology, enhancement of MIS and adoption of enterprise integration architecture to improve the performance of the utilities can be done by way of intranet and extranet through proper service oriented architecture. Shri Mukesh Puri, IAS, MD, GUVNL indicated that a comprehensive ERP solution is already in place which takes care of many of the suggestions mentioned above. The ERPDRP scheme funded by the Central Government also ensures the service oriented architecture by the utilities. He invited Prof. Harikrishna Mishra to visit GUVNL for detailed discussion in this regard. Prof. Mishra accepted the invitation and a meeting in this regard shall be held shortly.

(Action: GUVNL)

2. Shri Jyotindra Patel, Chairman, Energy Committee, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry indicated that consumers sometimes face problems that are required to be resolved by appropriate changes in the SoP. He indicated that after clubbing of the meters as per the policy of one premise one meter, there is a discrepancy in the total demand calculated by clubbing both the industrial as well as lighting load meters. He indicated that HP limit should go upto 150 instead of 125 which is the prescribed capacity for considering the connection as HT connection. Chairman, GERC indicated that the matter can be examined at the time of amending the Electricity Supply Code.

Shri Jyotindra Patel also indicated that despite the requirement of permanent connection for construction purpose, the utilities are not allowing permanent connection for construction activity and also disregarding the orders of Electricity Ombudsman in this regard.

Shri Shivalbhai Barasia, Rajkot Engineering Association indicated that it was not a good practice that despite the consumers agreeing to contract for

the minimum period of two years as per the requirement permanent connection is not given. Chairman, GERC directed GUVNL to ensure compliance by the Discoms.

Further, Shri Jyotindra Patel also suggested that utilities should grant electricity connection once NA permission is received without further investigation into purpose for which connection is demanded. However, Discoms represented that they can release the connection only for the purpose mentioned in the NA permission. It was concluded that if there is any specific purpose indicated in the NA permission, the same has to be followed by the Discoms unless they are of generic nature.

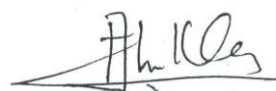
The other suggestions relating to fixed charges, ToU charges, power factor, rebate etc. being in the nature of suggestion for tariff change, the same may be taken up at the time of tariff determination.

3. Shri Shivilalbai Barasia, Rajkot Engineering Association indicated that Discoms interpret Supply Code Notification No. 11 generally and do not pass on the benefits to the consumers. Discoms have a tendency not to follow the orders of the Commission which is not proper. It was felt that a review at the level of M.Ds concerned shall be made for release of connections as stipulated by GERC in the Supply Code so as to ensure the compliance.

(Action: GUVNL/DISCOMs)

Chairman, GERC appreciated the active participation by the Members of the Advisory Committee and valuable suggestions made by them. Chairman also suggested early compliance of the various issues raised by the Members.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.



(Dr. Ketan Shukla)
Secretary

Gujarat Electricity regulatory Commission