

GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION, GANDHINAGAR

Minutes of the 20th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 6th August 2014

The 20th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee was held in the conference room of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission, Gift City, Gandhinagar on 6th August 2014 at 11.30 AM.

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 Dilip Raval, Secretary, GERC, Gandhinagar.
4. Shri Raj Gopal, Managing Director, GUNVL, Vadodara.
5. Shri V.T. Rajpara, Electricity Ombudsman, Ahmedabad.
6. Shri K. H. Chorera, Office on Special Duty, EPD, Gandhinagar.
7. Shri K. K. Bajaj, Consumer Education & Research Society, Ahmedabad
8. Shri N Dinkar, Vadodara
9. Shri Maganbhai Patel, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh, Gandhinagar.
10. Shri D.J. Dhandhukia, President, Gujarat Khedut Samaj, Bhavnagar.
11. Shri Kirtibhai Amin, President, Pradesh Kisan Vikas Sangh, Patan
12. Shri Shivlal S Barasiya, Rajkot Engineering Industries Association, Rajkot.
13. Shri Jyotindra Patel, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Ahmedabad.
14. Shri M. K. Shah, Acting Director, ERDA, Vadodara
15. Shri Manoj Goyal, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Western Railway, Mumbai
16. Dr. Omkar Jani, Gujarat Energy Research & Management Institute, Gandhinagar
17. Shri H.S.Patel, Managing Director, DGVCL, Surat.
18. Shri Sandip Kumar, Managing Director, PGVCL, Rajkot.
19. Shri N. Shrivastav, Managing Director, UGVCL, Mehsana.
20. Shri S.B. Khyaliya, Managing Director, MGVCL, Vadodara.
21. Shri S. K. Negi, Managing Director, GETCO, Vadodara.
22. Shri Gurdeep Singh, Managing Director, GSECL, Vadodara.
23. Shri P. N. Gandhi, Chief Electrical Inspector, Gandhinagar.
24. Shri B.B. Mehta, Chief Engineer, State Load Dispatch Centre, Vadodara.
25. Shri Chetan Bundela, Executive Director, Torrent Power Limited, Ahmedabad.
26. Shri Anil Purohit, GEDA, Gandhinagar
27. Shri P.M. Parmar, Executive Director, GSECL, Vadodara.

Officers of the Commission:

1. Shri D.R.Parmar, Joint Director,
2. Shri M.N.Khalyani, Deputy Director (A & A),
3. Shri S. T. Anada, Deputy Director,
4. Shri G. O. Dayalani, Deputy Director,
5. Shri Apurva Adhvaryu, Deputy Director,

Shri Dilip Raval, Secretary GERC welcomed all the Members of the State Advisory Committee and other participants, In his welcome speech Secretary told that this was his first State Advisory Committee meeting after he joined the commission. Generally meeting is held in every Quarter but this time due to General Election of Parliament & budget session of Assembly this meeting is held after interval of about 6 months. Secretary GERC requested Hon'able Chairman to address the committee.

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Chairman, GERC again welcomed all the members and others participants of the meeting and congratulated MD, GUVNL and MD, PGVCL for receiving best distribution company award from Independent Power Producers Association of India. Thereafter, the Chairman took up the Agenda Items for discussion:-

Agenda No.1: Approval of the minutes of 19th meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 22nd January 2014 at GERC, Gandhinagar.

The minutes of the 19th meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 22nd January 2014 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 19th Meeting of the State Advisory Committee.

Item No. 2.2 (ii): DISCOMs to analyse the premium amount paid for agriculture insurance policies and amount paid in settled cases.

The committee members raised issue regarding harvested crops need to be covered in insurance. MD, UGVCL stated that Insurance for harvest crop is also incorporated in renewal of insurance policy for the period of 06.02.2014 to 05.02.2015. (Action : DISCOMs)

Item No. 2.2.7: MD GUVNL to devise common format for all DISCOMs to submit the progress of maintenance activities.

A common format prepared for monitoring of progress of maintenance activities reviewed in the meeting. Chairman directed that all DISCOMs will submit details of maintenance activities. Representative of Western Railway Shri Manoj Goyal has raised the issued regarding large numbers of supply failure faced in Railway Connections. 39 Nos. of such cases reported last year and 11 Nos. in current year.

MD, GUVNL suggested Railway Department may discuss the issue of supply failure with GETCO and if required may contact GUVNL. (Action : GETCO)

Regarding maintenance activity, Shri Shivlal Barasiya, Member, State Advisory Committee, appointed the work done by PGVCL for maintenance of Highway feeder. Hon' able Chairman told that maintenance activity is continuous activity and it should be done regularly.

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Item No. 2.9(2) : Adoption of RF metering system .

MD, UGVCL stated that seven companies have shown interest to supply RF Meters for pilot study among which four companies have already started installation of meters. It will take around two months for complete study of the project. Chairman, GERC advised the MD, UGVCL to share the experience gained during the pilot.

Item No. 9. MD, GUVNL to hold meeting with Shri Kirtikumar Amin regarding agriculture connection falling under "D" category.

MD, UGVCL stated that draw for "D" category of Agriculture connections in Patan area was completed and work is in progress for releasing these connections. Shri Kirtibhai Amin has appreciated efforts of UGVCL.

Item No. 9(4).Additional load regularization

CEI opined that the assessment under 126 can be made in case of unauthorized load found on unmetered agriculture connections only. While MD, MGVCL opined that penalty under Clause 126 can be imposed in case of other consumer category also where fixed charge and energy charge is based on connected load slabs. However, this being the matter to be clarified in the supply code The Commission decided to include in the draft amendment of existing supply code

Agenda item No.3 : Utility wise SOP and CGRF Reports

The Commission observed that the human fatal accidents are reduced marginally in FY 2013-14 compared to FY 2012-13 in all the licensees. However, the animal fatal accidents have increased to a great extent in almost all the licensees' area. The Commission expressed apprehension about huge number of accidents taking place in the licensees' area. The CEI briefed the Commission that out of the total human fatal accidents major number of accidents are occurred in the premises of the consumers on which licensees have no control. MD, GUVNL expressed his great concern over the electrical accidents and assured the Commission that some concrete and result oriented steps will be taken to minimize the figures of accidents.

The Commission expressed their concern on increasing rate of distribution transformer failure in PGVCL and advised PGVCL to control the same.

The Commission made an observation that in DGVCL license area number of faulty meters is

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quite large. MD, DGVCL confirmed that within 2 months all the faulty meters will be replaced.
(Action: All the DISCOMs, CEI and GUVNL)

Agenda Item No.4: Amendments in MYT Regulations 2011

The Commission informed the Forum that it has decided to revisit the MYT Regulations, 2011. All the members were required to send comments/suggestions on changes they find necessary to be made in the existing Regulations and not to wait for the publication of the Draft.

Agenda Item No.5: Pendency of Agriculture connection applications

The Commission constituted a Committee comprising of MD, PGVCL, MD, UGVCL, Shri Maganbhai Patel, Member SAC and Shri Kirtibhai Amin, Member SAC under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, GERC. The Committee shall look into the matter of pendency of new agriculture connection applications along with other issues like disallowance of second agriculture connection in the same survey number, allowance of splitting of contracted demand to facilitate more number of water resources for irrigation purpose. The Committee shall submit its report within 2 months. (Action: Secretary, GERC)

Agenda Item No.6: Regulation on Demand Side Management.

The Forum was informed about the outcome of the meeting held on 03/06/2014 at the Commission's office regarding findings of load research activities, available technical potential of DSM in licensee's area and proposed DSM Programme. Accordingly DGVCL, MGVCL and PGVCL have submitted proposed DSM Programme Documents in the given time limit. UGVCL and TPL have confirmed that DSM Programme shall be submitted within 15 days.

(Actions: UGVCL and TPL)

Agenda Item No.7: Prepaid Meters

MD's of DISCOMs Opined that prepaid meters are not successful in the country. Further, collection efficiency in all the utilities are good hence, there is no need to install prepaid meters. Installation of prepaid meters will increase chances of theft of electricity, as Consumer's premises will remain unattended. More over Some projects are also going on for implementation of smart grid, where meters are having two way communication.

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

Shri Shivlalbhai Barasia pointed out that full cost of 11KV line and 11KV breaker at 66KV Sub-Station is recovered from prospective HT connection applicants. In fact the load demanded by the applicant is lesser than the capacity of line and breaker. DISCOMs cater future applicants from the same line utilizing spare capacity and also recover line costs from such future applicants also. Thus, there is dual recovery from the applicants for the same infrastructure. The Commission clarified that there is provision of recovery of charges on prorata basis on the load demanded by the applicants. It is advised to represent before CGRF if the regulation is not followed by the licensee.

Shri K. K. Bajaj, CERS raised the issue of collection of reconnection charges from consumer even though non disconnection of connection. DISCOMs confirmed that no such charge is being recovered. The Commission directed DISCOMs to look in to the matter if even by mistake such charge is recovered from any of the consumer.

Shri Bajaj also raised an issue about malpractices in releasing the agriculture connection in PGVCL jurisdiction. The Commission directed PGVCL to investigate in to the matter and respond to Shri Bajaj. On a complaint by Shri Bajaj about non-response to CERS letters by DISCOMs, the Commission directed all the utilities to first acknowledge the receipt of the letters and then respond it as early as possible.

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


SECRETARY
GERC