

PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
SITE NO. 3, BLOCK B, SECTOR 18-A MADHYA MARG, CHANDIGARH

Petition No. 51 of 2020
Date of Hearing: 28.04.2021
Date of Order: 03.05.2021

Petition for revision of Schedule of General Charges recoverable from the applicants/consumers seeking electricity connections/services from PSPCL under Section 181 (u) of the Electricity Act 2003, Regulation 47 of Supply Code 2014 and Regulations 69,70,71 & 72 of chapter XIII of the conduct of Business Regulations 2005.

AND

In the matter of: Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. the Mall, Patiala

...Petitioner

Present: Sh. Viswajeet Khanna, Chairperson
Ms. Anjali Chandra, Member
Sh. Paramjeet Singh, Member

PSPCL: Sh. Gurchain Singh Banga, CE/ARR&TR
Sh. Deepak Gupta, SE/TR-2
Sh. Mukesh Kumar, ASE/TR-5
Sh. Lovleen Gupta AEE/TR-5
Sh. Narinder Kumar Jindal, SE/Sales-2
Sh. Ajay Garg, Sr.Xen/SR

ORDER

The petition was taken up for hearing as well as public hearing. However, nobody from the public appeared in the public hearing. The Commission raised certain queries with regard to the revision of Schedule of General Charges as proposed by PSPCL. PSPCL shall submit its reply to the following queries.

1. The rates of various services viz meter inspection, testing fee, changing the position of meter, resealing of meter, reconnection etc have been proposed to be increased due to increase in average cost of supply and labour rates. The co-relation of these charges with average

cost of supply, to be explained. Also submit % age increase in labour rates over the period of time.

2. The cost of meter equipment considered for calculating meter rentals (Sr. No.4 of Annexure-F) to be inserted in Annexure F-1.
3. PSPCL shifted most of the whole current meters of consumers in pillar boxes i.e. 20 in 1 or 4 in 1 or 6 in 1 meter boxes which were funded through centrally sponsored schemes or CAPEX. The justification for recovery of rentals for such pillar boxes/MCBs may be provided. The reasons for proposing same MCB rentals at Sr. No 2 of Annexure F-1 for housing one meter or multiple meters may also be explained. The value of pillar boxes/MCBs considered for calculating MCB rental to be depicted in Annexure F-1.
4. At Sr. No. 6.2 of Annexure-F, charges for reconnecting vacant premises have been proposed. How these charges are different from reconnection charges proposed at Sr. No. 6.1 ibid to be explained.
5. The processing fee (Sr. No.7 of Annexure F) as per Regulation 6 and 8 were introduced w.e.f 1.1.2015. However, proposed increase has been linked to increase in cost of supply/labour rates over for 10 years. The same to be explained. The charges at 7.3.2(a) have already been covered under 7.1.1 and 7.1.2.
6. At Sr. No. 8.2 of Annexure-F, charges for testing of new/existing installation have been proposed whereas PSPCL has exempted verification of test reports of consumer vide CC No 36 of 2012 dated 26.10.2012. Under what conditions these charges are proposed to be recovered from consumers/applicants to be explained.
7. At Sr. No 9.1 of Annexure-F, charges for replacement of meter card/pass book for industrial/domestic/NRS consumers have been proposed whereas no such cards/pass books are maintained for such consumers.
8. At Sr. No. 12 of Annexure-F, charges for review of energy bills have been prescribed. Provisions of Supply Code be quoted under which these charges can be levied.

9. At Sr. No. 13.3 of Annexure-F, the meter installation charges have been proposed to be increased from 2% of the cost of metering equipment to 3% of the cost of metering equipment. The % age increase to be justified.
10. The Security (consumption) for different category of consumers has been proposed on the basis of LDHF formula but the values for various parameters are not in accordance with the provisions of clause (4) of Annexure-8 of Supply Code, 2014.
11. At Sr. No. 16.2 of Annexure-F, the rates for meter security have been proposed. The copies of the latest purchase orders for each class of meters and other metering equipment be supplied along with an undertaking from CE/Metering that these purchase orders submitted to the Commission are the latest rates. PSPCL to explain these.
12. At Sr. No. 16.4 of Annexure-F, the rates of security for temporary connections at twice the rates of security (consumption) for permanent category of consumers have been proposed whereas now the temporary supply consumer pays 1.25 times the normal tariff rates. Please explain.
13. At Sr.No 17 of Annexure-F, the recoverable cost of meters has been calculated as per Annexure F-5, which includes testing and supervisions charges. The new meters are received by PSPCL duly sealed after testing from the supplier and only a small percentage of such meters are checked in PSPCL's laboratories. The recovery of testing charges from consumer may be justified. The justification for levy of 15% supervision charges be explained since supervision charges are recovered from those consumers who carry out the works at their level and the licensee supervise the execution, which is not applicable in this case. Moreover the supervision charges are levied on labour cost and not on the cost of material.
14. At Sr. No. 17.2 of Annexure-F, repair charges for meters have been proposed. The static meters are not being repaired by PSPCL. Justification to be submitted.

15. At Sr. No. 18 of Annexure-F, service line rentals have been proposed. Service rentals were charged in lieu of service connection charges from DS & NRS consumers connected prior to 1964. Justification to continue with such charges be submitted.
16. At Sr. No. 19 of Annexure-F, the demand notice extension fee for different load categories irrespective of consumer category have been proposed whereas earlier the rates were on the basis of consumer category. The rationale for the same be explained.
17. PSPCL to submit rates of general charges applicable for similar services in other States viz. Haryana, Delhi, UP, Gujarat, Maharashtra and MP.

PSPCL shall submit the above information within three weeks. The petition shall be taken up for hearing on 02.06.2021 at 11.00 AM.

Sd/-
(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Sd/-
(Anjuli Chandra)
Member

Sd/-
(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson

Chandigarh

Dated: 03.05.2021