

PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
AMENDMENTS IN SUPPLY CODE, 2014
Explanatory Memorandum

The Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 181 read with Sections 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 126, 127, 135, 152, 154 & 163 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (Central Act 36 of 2003) read with Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007 (No. 26 of 2007) and all other powers enabling it in this behalf and in compliance of Electricity (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2005, issued by the Ministry of Power, Government of India bearing No.S.O.790 (E) dated 8th June 2005, notified the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulations, 2014 vide notification dated 5th November, 2014 (in short Supply Code, 2014). Thereafter, thirteen amendments in Supply Code regulations have been issued from time to time. To further amend the Supply Code, 2014, following amendments are proposed;

1. Amendment in Regulation 6.3.2 and 6.3.3

For expeditious release of connections, PSPCL proposed to reduce time allowed for submission of A&A form along with the requisite documents after the feasibility clearance. The Panel recommended that the time allowed for submission of A&A form along with other requisite documents/charges after feasibility clearance may be kept as 30 days but may reduce the total period after extension to 45 days (including 30 days allowed in first instance) instead of 60 days as per existing regulations. Further, time allowed to distribution licensee for giving feasibility clearance, as per regulation 6.3.2, may also be reduced from 60 days to 45 days. In case of non-compliance of the provisions of Regulation 6.3.2 by PSPCL, the interest on EMD at bank rate shall be payable to the applicant by the distribution licensee.

2. Amendment in Regulation 6.8.2

As per Regulation 8.1 (a) of the Supply Code, 2014, the connection where no augmentation, erection or extension of distribution main, erection/ augmentation of distribution transformer or power transformer is required, connection is to be released with 15 days of the submission of test report. In case where augmentation, erection etc is required, such connections are covered under regulation 8.1 (b).

However, as per Regulation 6.8.2(a), seniority queue for 11 kV and also for 33 kV & above applicants are same irrespective of the fact whether augmentation, erection etc is required or not. As such different seniority queues is to be defined for both categories of connection so that HT/EHT connections covered under regulation 8.1 (a) are not delayed due to pending connections under Regulation 8.1 (b).

3. Amendment in Regulation 6.8.5

It has been observed that many applicants/consumers apply for new connection/extension in load/demand but do not comply with Demand Notice till its expiry or keep on seeking extensions, thereby blocking the load on the system, due to which the available load cannot be released to junior applicant/consumer who is ready to take load. As such in order to encourage only genuine consumers who are desirous of getting an early connection/extension, it has been proposed that in case an applicant fails to submit documents (except test report) and deposit applicable charges before the expiry of the original demand notice period of six months then the case of junior applicant(s) who has complied with the conditions of demand notice may be processed for release of connection, till the senior applicant/consumer, who has sought extension does not deposit the charges as per the demand notice.

4. Amendment in Regulation 11.6.4

As per present regulations, in the case of land having an AP/AP-High- tech connection being jointly owned by more than one person and a part of the land along with the AP/AP-High- tech connection thereon being sold, the connection is transferred in the name of the purchaser if all the co-sharers submit an affidavit duly attested by a Magistrate to the effect. Keeping in view difficulties being faced by the purchaser in completing these formalities, it is proposed that change of name may be allowed after obtaining an indemnity bond from the purchaser of the land with AP Connection along with other requisite documents.

5. Amendment in Regulation 12

PSPCL in the ARR for petition for FY 2024-25 has proposed automatic revision of sanctioned load on the basis of recorded maximum demand in respect of DS/NRS consumers. As per the provisions of Electricity (Right of Consumer) Amendment Rules, 2023, in case maximum demand recorded by the smart meter exceeds the Sanctioned Load in a month, the bill, for that billing cycle, shall be calculated based on the actual recorded maximum demand and consumers shall be

informed of this change in calculation through Short Message Service or mobile application. It has further been provided that in case of increase in recorded maximum load, the lowest of the monthly maximum demand, where the recorded maximum demand has exceeded the sanctioned load limit atleast three times during a financial year, shall be considered as the revised sanctioned load, and the same shall be automatically reset from the billing cycle in next financial year. The panel recommended to amend the Supply Code, 2014 in line with Sub-Rule (5) of Rule (5) of Electricity (Right to Consumers) Amendment Rule, 2023.

However, as per the information supplied by PSPCL, there are over 21 lac consumer meters which are not capable of recording maximum demand in kW and shall be replaced by smart meters in a phased manner. Accordingly, it has been proposed that in such cases if the connected load of the consumer is found to be more than the sanctioned load during inspection, then a 30 days notice shall be issued to such consumer to get the load regularized by submitting his consent to the distribution licensee. Such inspection shall be carried out only after the prior approval of the officer in-charge not below the rank of concerned AE/AEE (DS). In case a consumer files objections within the notice period, the same shall be considered by the officer in-charge and disposed of within 15 days of its receipt through a written order. After the lapse of notice period or issue of written order after disposal of objections, the sanctioned load shall be deemed to have been revised to the load detected during inspection or as assessed after disposing of the objections, as the case may be, from the next billing cycle for the purpose of preparation of energy bill and levy of all charges including service connection charges for the enhanced load which shall be recovered through subsequent energy bill.

Draft PSERC (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) (14th Amendment) Regulations, 2024 are attached. The comments/suggestions/objections from all the stakeholders are solicited under Sub-section (3) of Section 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Rule 3 of the Electricity (Procedure for Previous Publication) Rules, 2005 on the proposed amendments in Supply Code, 2014.