

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

**I.A. No. 08 of 2024 in
Petition No. 12 of 2024
Date of Order: 06.06.2024**

Interlocutory Application under Regulation 47 of PSERC (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulations, 2014 and Regulations 69, 70, 71 & 72 of PSERC (conduct of business) regulations, 2005 to extend the validity of Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for Agriculture Tubewell (AP) consumers

And

In the matter of: Punjab State Power Corporation Limited O/o Chief Engineer / ARR&TR PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala, Punjab-147001

.....Applicant

Commission: Sh.Viswajeet Khanna, Chairperson
Sh. Paramjeet Singh, Member

ORDER

An Application (IA) has been filed by PSPCL under Regulation 47 of PSERC (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulations, 2014 and Regulation 69, 70, 71 and 72 of PSERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2005 to extend the validity of Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for Agriculture Tubewell (AP) consumers as approved by the Commission vide Order dated 07.03.2024 in Petition No.12 of 2024.

1.0 The applicant has submitted as under:-

- (i) Petition no. 12 of 2024 was filed before the Commission for the introduction of Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for Agriculture consumers (AP) under regulation 47 of the Supply Code, 2014 read with regulations 68 & 69 of

PSERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2005. The Commission, vide Order dated 07.03.2024 allowed the applicant to re-introduce the VDS for Agriculture consumers (AP).

(ii) VDS for AP Consumers was launched vide PSPCL CC No.05/2024 dated 11.03.2024 with the approval of the Commission. As per ibid order, the scheme was approved for the period of 45 days which may be further extended for a period for 3 months including the initial period of 45 days. The VDS scheme was initially launched for a duration of 45 days, up to 24.04.2024. This period was subsequently extended to complete a three-month period. The scheme's validity is set to expire on 07.06.2024.

(iii) Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for Agriculture Tubewell during year 2022 was approved by the Commission vide Order dated 22.06.2022 in Petition No.34 of 2022. It was introduced by the applicant vide CC no.13/2022 dated 10.06.2022 which remained operative upto 31.10.2022. As per this, Service Connection Charges (SCC) @ 2500/- per BHP as approved by the Commission were recoverable from the AP consumers who wanted to extend the load of their agriculture tubewell connections. The response to the aforementioned Voluntary Disclosure Scheme was as under:-

Nos. of consumers who availed VDS	Total Load Declared under the scheme (in kW)	Amount received in respect of service connection charges and Security (consumption) (in Rs. Crore)		
		SCC	Security (consumption)	Total
196178	592809	198.54	16.07	214.61

The progress data (upto 22.05.2024) of the VDS scheme as per the latest Order dated 07.03.2024 of the Commission against Petition no. 12 of 2024 is as under:-

Nos. of consumers who availed VDS	Total Load Declared under the scheme (in kW)	Amount received in respect of service connection charges/Security (consumption) (in Rs. Crore)		
		SCC	Security (consumption)	Total
35291	1,66,724 (BHP) 1,24,376 (kW)	41.68	3.33	45.01

- (iv) Based on the above data, it is observed that the progress of the ongoing Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for Agricultural consumers (AP) is notably slower in comparison to the VDS Scheme launched in 2022. It is anticipated that the farmers in Punjab, having sold their wheat crop, may now possess the financial capacity to increase their motive loads at the beginning of the paddy season. Furthermore, following the wheat harvest, when farmers commence the use of tubewells for field irrigation, they will likely determine the necessity of enhancing motor capacity due to a possible decrease in the water table. It is presumed that a significant number of Agricultural consumers have yet to regularize their excess load
- (v) Accordingly, the applicant has prayed to extend the validity period of the currently launched VDS for Agriculture (AP) consumers, as per the order of the Commission dated 07.03.2024 in Petition No.12 of 2024, for an additional 45 days from the date of expiry, under the same terms and conditions as the ongoing VDS.

2.0 Commission's Findings and Order

I.A. was placed before the Commission. The submissions made by PSPCL have been gone through. The Commission takes note of the concern of the applicant that a significant number of agricultural consumers may have yet to regularise their excess load. After considering all the aspects of the issue, the Commission, in accordance with Regulation 69 of PSERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2005, as amended from time to time read with Regulations 46 and 47 of the Supply Code, 2014 allows the applicant to extend the validity of Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for agricultural (AP) consumers for another 45 days on the same terms and conditions as laid down in Order dated 07.03.2024 in Petition No.12 of 2024.

The I.A. is disposed of accordingly.

-Sd-
(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

-Sd-
(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson

Chandigarh

Dated: 06.06.2024