

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

**Petition No. 09 of 2023**

**Date of Order: 31.03.2023**

Petition under Section 23 of the Electricity Act, 2003 seeking Regulatory Guidance for Measures to be taken by PSPCL in case of exigencies leading to power cuts for the Tariff Year 2023-24.

**AND**

In the matter of: Punjab State Power Corporation Limited  
The Mall, Patiala-147001.

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

**ORDER**

1. Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has filed this petition under Section 23 of the Electricity Act, 2003 seeking Regulatory Guidance and concurrence of the Commission for the measures to be taken by it for load regulation and imposing power cuts in case of exigencies and system requirements.

2. The submissions made by PSPCL in the Petition are summarized as under:

i) The endeavor of PSPCL as a distribution licensee is to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all of its consumers and regulate the supply only in case of unavoidable exigencies.

ii) PSPCL is at present expected to be surplus in power availability from October 2023 to March 2024 but gap between the power availability and demand is marginal from May 2023 to September 2023. In the circumstances, it is expected that the requirement to regulate supply to various categories of consumers and imposing power cuts would be

as per real time demand/supply gap from May 2023 to September 2023 and minimal for the rest of the year, only to take care of unexpected events and circumstances.

- iii) Post two grid collapses of 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012, stringent grid regulations are applicable for deviation from the schedule which includes severe penalties in terms of high deviation charges. The availability of power has to be maintained around the running load at all the times for safeguarding the grid.
- iv) With the introduction of capping on volume limits on over drawl from the grid in the current deviation settlement mechanism, violations beyond specified limits attract severe penalties against overdrawal from the system in real time operations. As such, the regulation of load through the implementation of power regulatory measures may be necessitated on real time basis. Moreover, after applicability of new DSM Regulations 2022 w.e.f 05-12-2022, DSM charges have been linked to the Ancillary Service Charges which are comparatively higher as compared to earlier DSM charges. By linking the market clearing price of the power exchange with the DSM rate, the operation of power system on day-to-day basis has become more rigid and in case of sudden outages of power system elements, power regulation may be of utmost importance in the interest of safety of grid.
- v) However, even in a generally surplus scenario, eventualities mentioned below cannot be ruled out in the power system which may require regulation of load and supply:
  - a) The forced outage of the generating units, especially of the larger capacity IPPs in the State for a long duration.

- b) Any downward revision in the Central Sector schedule for a long duration on account of forced outage of Central Sector Generating Units, in which the State has a major stake.
- c) A maximum demand of 3345 LUs and a peak demand of 14311 MW have been recorded on 29.06.2022. During the year 2023-24, a projected unrestricted demand of around 15336 MW is being envisaged. With a full internal generation and any forced outage due to any unforeseen reasons and any limitation of the transmission/sub transmission network, may necessitate imposition of regulatory measures.
- d) At present, the existing ATC/TTC of Punjab has been fixed by NLDC as 8500/9000 MW respectively and any reduction of internal generation due to forced outage may require the emergent imposition of Power regulatory measures during the year 2023-24 to keep the system running within the limitations of the grid code.
- e) Any restrictions due to overloading of inter-regional lines may also necessitate load shedding within the state.
- f) Any other contingency, where availability of power is not able to meet with the demand may also require regulating the load on the system on real time basis.
- vi) In the scenarios and circumstances mentioned above, PSPCL may be required to bridge the demand / supply gap within Punjab control area on real time basis by imposing various regulatory measures.
- vii) During the Paddy season of 2021, PSPCL had witnessed a precarious situation of very high peak demand around 15000

MW during the months of June and July. Delayed monsoon causing a continuous dry spell and high temperatures led to an unexpected rise in demand of all consumer categories simultaneously. Being the peak time of paddy crop sowing, irrigation requirements of the paddy crop and hence the power demand of the agriculture sector too rose manifold. Due to these circumstances and the limitations on power import from outside the State due to limited transmission capacity of 6800 MW and also limited sources of the state internal generation capacity (at the most 6600 MW), PSPCL was able to meet only 13431 MW of demand and was constrained to impose power cuts/power regulatory measures on various categories of consumers.

It is anticipated that in case similar circumstances prevail during the upcoming paddy season, peak power demand is likely to remain well above 15300 MW. To meet this demand PSPCL is taking up the matter with MoP, GOI for allocating additional power from the centre sector pool for the year 2023. PSPCL will also arrange power from the open market exchanges. Recently CERC, vide its order dated 28th December 2022 in its petition No. 17/SM/2022, observed market volatility. Relevant part of its order is reproduced as under: -

*“The commission has been regularly monitoring the situation in the power market, and other domestic and global developments having impact on the demand and supply of electricity. In the latest review, based on the data provided by the Power Exchanges, Grid Controller of India and as available on the website of CEA, the following key points have emerged:*

*c) Based on the analysis of month-wise data for the past few years, it is observed that both energy requirement and peak demand remained higher in 2022-23 and the trend is likely to continue in the coming months.*

e) Regulation 51 of the PMR 2021 provides as under: “51. Other circumstances requiring intervention (1)The Commission may, on being satisfied that a situation of abnormal increase or decrease in prices or volume of electricity in the Power Exchange exist or is likely to occur in the market, by an order, give such directions as may be considered necessary.....”

4. In exercise of the aforesaid powers under Regulation 51(1) of the PMR 2021 and keeping in view of the developments discussed in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, the Commission, with a view to protect consumer interests, has decided to extend the applicability of the directions in its Order dated 06.05.2022 in Petition No. 05/SM/2022 (Suo Motu) **until further Order** in 17/SM/2022 Page 3 Orders. Accordingly, in continuance of the earlier Order, the Commission hereby directs all the operational Power Exchanges that they shall continue to operate their software, **until further Orders**, in such a way that members can quote price in the range of Rs.0/kWh to **Rs.12/kWh** in DAM (including GDAM), RTM, Intra-day, Day Ahead Contingency, and Term-Ahead (including GTAM) Contracts.”

It is also submitted on the whole, average energy market prices have remained on the higher side and have increased by nearly 40% :-

Period	Avg Market Rate (Rs./kWh)
April-21- to Jan-22	4.58
April'-22- to Jan-23*	6.23

\*Data is till 26.01.2023

In such circumstances, PSPCL may have to decide and impose power cuts/power regulatory measures on different categories of consumers, including Industrial consumers to provide 8 hours uninterrupted power supply to the agricultural sector depending upon the demand/supply gap on real time basis, especially during the upcoming paddy season.

- viii) Under the Electricity Act, 2003, while the management of load is to be taken care of by the licensees, a provision in Section 23 enables the Commission to decide the principles and basis on which the regulation in power can be done, to the extent possible, in case of exigencies and circumstances

that may arise. Further, having a guiding principle for imposing regulatory measures in case of exigencies results in greater regulatory certainty.

- ix) PSPCL proposes the following regulatory measures to be taken in case it becomes imperative to impose power regulatory measures and impose power cuts:
- a) To regulate the supply by imposing power cut on feeders controlling supply to the 24 hours UPS/Urban-Industrial Cat-1/Main cities / District. Head Quarters.
  - b) To impose off day(s) on LS & MS category of industrial consumers fed from category 1, 2 & 3 feeders.
  - c) To restrict the drawl of the LS & MS category consumers (fed from category 1, 2 & 3 feeders) and continuous process (category 4) consumers to the extent required for safe & secure operation of the grid during peak load hours as well as off-peak hours.
  - d) To regulate power supply to AP consumers.
  - e) Any other additional regulatory measures on any category of consumers in case of exigencies of outage of PSPCL's own/central sector generating units or transmission/sub transmission network of ISTS/ STU or any of the major grid elements ICTs etc.
  - f) The priority order of imposing power cuts/regulatory measures will generally be followed as under except for the duration of the paddy season when the priority is to provide 8 hours uninterrupted power supply to the agricultural sector:

Priority Order for Regulation of Power Supply to various categories of consumers.		Type of Regulatory Measure
1	AP Feeders	Power Cut (opening of Breakers from the Grid Substations for certain period in rotation depending on the requirement in real time) for safeguard of the grid. Thereafter, all possible efforts will be made to compensate the AP supply within 24 Hrs.
2	UPS High loss Feeders	Power Cut (opening of Breakers from the Grid Substations for certain period in rotation depending on the requirement in real time)
3	Kandi Feeders & UPS Feeders	Power Cut (opening of Breakers from the Grid Substations for certain period in rotation depending on the requirement in real time)
4	Category-1 High loss Feeders	Restricting the drawl of the LS & MS category consumers <b>and/or</b> Imposing Off Days on LS & MS Category consumers to the extent required for safe & secure operation of grid <b>or</b> Power Cut (opening of Breakers from the Grid Substations for certain period in rotation depending on the requirement in real time)
5	Category-1 Feeders	Restricting the drawl of the LS & MS category consumers <b>and/or</b> Imposing Off Days on LS & MS Category consumers to the extent required for safe & secure operation of grid <b>or</b> Power Cut (opening of Breakers from the Grid Substations for certain period in rotation depending on the requirement in real time)
6	Category-2 Feeders	Restricting the drawl of the LS & MS category consumers <b>and/or</b> Imposing Off Days on LS & MS Category consumers to the extent required for safe & secure operation of the grid
7	Category-3 Feeders	Restricting the drawl of the LS & MS category consumers <b>and/or</b> Imposing Off Days on LS & MS Category consumers to the extent required for safe & secure operation of the grid
8	Category-4 feeders feeding continuous process status industrial consumers.	Restricting the drawl of the Continuous process consumers (including continuous process load) to the extent required for safe & secure operation of grid

g) PSPCL has submitted that, depending upon the Real Time Requirements, various Permutation & Combinations may be used for bridging the gap in demand & supply owing to

various exigencies explained above till some alternate arrangement is made.

- h) PSPCL further stated that in FY 2023-24, the regulatory measures shall be imposed on a real time basis depending upon the real time gap in the demand and supply of power and other system constraints.
- i) PSPCL has submitted that if any consumer(s) violates the power regulatory measures imposed by PSPCL, appropriate penalty ranging from Rs.100/KVA to Rs.500/KVA, as a deterrent, shall be levied on them to ensure compliance of power regulatory measures for safety of grid and keeping the system running within grid code limitations.
- j) PSPCL shall however make its best endeavor not to impose any regulatory measures and shall on its part:
  - a) Impose minimum Scheduled Power Regulatory Measures/ Scheduled Power cuts for which an advanced notification will be published about the schedule of power cuts and regulatory measures in case of outages/exigencies for longer durations without any scope of alternate arrangement of power.
  - b) Unscheduled load shedding, if any, shall only be imposed during sudden outage of generating units or exigencies in the grid. Duration of such load shedding shall be kept to a minimum, as possible.
- k) The Commission had for the year 2022-23 passed orders dated 31.03.2022 against Petition No. 07 of 2022 dealing with the regulatory measures to be taken when an exigency arises. The said order dated 31.03.2022 is effective for the period till 31.03.2023.



- l) The petitioner has prayed to:
- i. Admit and take on record the present petition filed by PSPCL on the regulatory measures proposed to be taken for the purpose of maintaining equitable distribution of power supply throughout the State of Punjab and to operate the grid in a safe & secure, economical and efficient manner in compliance to the IEGC/State Grid Code Provisions.
  - ii. Provide guidance on the proposed regulatory measures and penalty as a deterrent for safe & secure operation of the grid as detailed herein above and make such modifications in the proposal of PSPCL as the Commission may deem just.
  - iii. Pass such other further order(s) as the Commission may deem just in light of the facts of the present case.

3. The Commission vide Order dated 02.03.2023 admitted the Petition, and directed PSPCL to issue a public notice inviting objections from the public/organisations, as required under Regulation 67 of the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2005. The petition was fixed for hearing as well as public hearing on 15.03.2022 at 11.30 A.M. Sh. O.P Garg, Secretary, Consumers & Telephone Subscribers Forum, Patiala, appeared in the public hearing. After hearing the representative appearing for PSPCL, Order was reserved.

4. In response to the public notice issued by PSPCL, only one observation/objection from Mandi Gobindgarh Induction Furnace Association has been received. PSPCL submitted its reply to the objection vide memo No. 5594 dated 14.03.2023. The

suggestions/comments received from the objector relating to the petition and response of PSPCL thereupon is as under:

**l) M/s Mandi Gobindgarh Induction Furnace Association, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab**

Point no.	Salient extract of the comments/objections	Response of PSPCL
1.	Their industry should be last category to be asked to give relief through regulatory measures	<p>The priority order of imposing power cuts/regulatory measures will generally be followed as under except for paddy season when the priority is to provide 8 hours uninterrupted power supply to agricultural sector:</p> <p>AP Feeders→ UPS High loss feeders→Kandi/UPS→ Category-1 High loss feeders→Category-1→ Category 2 → Category 3 (Arc/ Induction furnace consumers) →Category-4 (Continuous Process Status Industrial Consumers).</p> <p>The Arc/ Induction furnace Industry is already placed at second last in the above order.</p> <p>The regulation of load shall only be carried out depending upon the real time shortages and the nature of fault occurred in the power system equipment.</p>
2	PSERC has introduced Special Night Rebate for LS industry opting to consume power exclusively during night hours. Many of our members have opted for the same to optimize on the production costs and are also helping PSPCL to flatten its load curve particularly during winter / non paddy months when PSPCL consumption drastically reduces. As power for such consumers is available only for 12 hours, any power cut on such consumers will hit them financially and may make their option totally unviable. Therefore such consumers need to be exempted from any regulatory measure.	<p>The power cuts are proposed to be imposed in case of exigencies only as per priority order submitted in the petition (except during the paddy season).</p> <p>The Arc/ Induction furnace Industry is already placed at second last in the above order</p>

3 (a)	<p>PSPCL had imposed Regulatory Measures on industry from 01-07-2021 to 12-07-2021 last year in spite of declaring that PSPCL is surplus throughout the paddy season. PSPCL imposed unequal and discretionary weekly off days on industries located in various zones. The penalty was decided and increased subsequently in an arbitrary manner. SMS delivery system did not operate and no one in PSPCL was able to answer the queries of the consumers.</p>	<p>The delayed monsoon which caused unexpected rise in demand of all categories simultaneously could not be anticipated at the time of petition as it is beyond anyone's control. Due to limitations on power import from outside the State up to the allocated transmission capacity and limited within state generation due to outage of TSPL units, PSPCL was constrained to impose power cuts/ power regulatory measures on various categories of consumers. PSPCL tried to impose power regulatory measures in an equitable manner in different zones depending upon the demand supply gap on real time basis. Intimation was given to the consumers through uploading the circulars on the website and whatsapp messages etc. by the distribution offices. The penalty was levied as a deterrent to ensure compliance of power regulatory measures which had to be increased to get sufficient load relief for the safety of the grid.</p>
(b) to (d)	<p>The steel industry implemented the power regulatory measures as per PSPCL directions. PSPCL did not charge the fixed charges for the duration for those who kept their factories closed. However, the consumers, mostly belonging to the spinning mills, blatantly and knowingly violated the regulatory measures and were penalized as per the power regulatory circulars. Some consumers approached the Hon'ble Commission against the penalty whereupon Show cause notice was issued to PSPCL. Later on, their representations were converted into suo motu Petition bearing no 52 of 2021. The Hon'ble Commission observed vide order dated 21.1.2022 that the PR circulars issued and levy of penalty/exemption from fixed charges were not according to the orders of the Commission on imposing power regulatory measures for the relevant year. PSPCL was directed to recover the fixed charges waived by it for the period under regulatory measures and to refund the amount of penalty, if any, imposed on the defaulting consumers</p>	<p>No reply required as the objector has given brief summary of suo motu Petition No. 52 of 2021, order dated 21.1.2022 and their RP No 8 of 2022 which was dismissed by the Commission</p>

	Feeling aggrieved, the objector herein filed a review Petition bearing no RP No 8 of 2022 which was dismissed at the admission stage itself.	
(f)	As per press reports, the paddy season of 2023 is going to be very tough for PSPCL due to very low levels of coal at 4 out of its 5 thermal plants, prediction of Al-nino and consequent low rain fall, almost same generation capacity in the state and import capability of Punjab compared with last year etc. and there are chances of imposition of weekly off days on industry to ensure continuous supply to agriculture and domestic /NRS consumers of the state.	With persistent efforts of PSPCL, the average coal stock inventory at PSPCL's plants has increased and is presently sufficient for about 11 days. All efforts are being made to ensure regular supply of coal from CIL sources, captive mine and other sources. As per the directions of the Ministry of Power, PSPCL is in the process of procurement of 1.50 lakh MT of Imported coal for the forthcoming Paddy Season-2023. With the arrangements mentioned above, PSPCL will be in a position to meet the increased coal requirements of its thermal plants for optimum power generation during the forthcoming Paddy Season-2023.
(g) to (i)	<p>The industry stresses that if any weekly off is imposed on the industry, the check and balances be ensured i.e. exemption from fixed charges on hourly basis and deterrent penalty be specified but nothing should be left to the discretion of the PSPCL. We earnestly request that the situation arising out of the weekly off days imposed in 2021 must not be repeated jeopardizing the interests of the law abiding consumers.</p> <p>PSPCL has in the Petition brought out the deficit in power availability in Annexure A for the month of May to Sept 2023 as the surplus as depicted are marginal and the Power Regulatory measures may continue during whole of the Paddy season. Thus PSPCL has already declared its intention to impose power cuts in the paddy season 2023. Hon'ble Commission is requested to provide clear and unambiguous guidance to PSPCL in a detailed manner.</p>	The power cuts are proposed to be imposed in case of exigencies only to balance any mismatch between demand & supply on real time basis.
4	Actual category wise duration of power cuts imposed in the last two years and relief obtained from each category should have been made part of the petition for information of the consumers. In the absence of	The power cuts are imposed on real time basis subject to bridging the gap between availability & demand in case of exigencies, for the interest of grid security. Further, no notified power cuts have been required / imposed by PSPCL on any

	detailed data, they are unable to completely analyze the effect of the prayers and make any assessment of the scenario.	category of industrial consumers of PSPCL in recent years except for the period 01-07-2021 to 12-07-2021 for which the detailed circulars are available on PSPCLs website.
5	<p>A) The surplus energy at state periphery has been worked out as 4167 MUs in Annexure-A of the subject petition whereas in format D2 of ARR (page 196) for the year 2023-24, the surrendered power has been indicated as 2961.29 MUs.</p> <p>B) As per para 5.1.5 of the Tariff Order 2022-23, PSERC indicated surplus power in 2021-22 as 6900 Mus. However as per RE of 2021-22, the surplus/ surrendered power is only 8410.09 Mus. The data needs to be reconciled as PSPCL is giving different figures in every submission.</p>	<p>A) The figure 2961.29 MUs indicates the power surrender from center sector plants and long term plants whereas 4167 MUs (in Annexure A) include surplus energy from own thermal plants also.</p> <p>B) The said figures of the surplus/ surrendered power relates to FY 2022-23 instead of FY 2021-22 mentioned. At the time of Tariff Order 2022-23, the whole FY 2022-23 was projected but in the current ARR, FY 2022-23 H1 was actual and FY 2022-23 H2 was projected.</p>
6	Category -3 feeders be exempted from demand reduction / weekly off days during non paddy period. During paddy period, only minimum restrictions be imposed during exigencies only so that losses to the industry is minimized so that they can plan deployment of labor accordingly and do not suffer any loss.	<p>The power cuts are proposed to be imposed in case of exigencies only as per priority order at para 12 of the petition (except paddy season).</p> <p>The Arc/ Induction furnace Industry is already placed at second last in the above order.</p>
7	In para 14 of the petition, PSPCL has also sought approval to impose penalty ranging from Rs.100/KVA to Rs.500/KVA for violation of the restrictions on usage of power. Such discretionary powers should not be given to PSPCL and amount of penalty and its duration should not be onerous on the consumers. As it is a tariff matter, the Commission should decide that penalty amount in clear and illustrative manner	<p>During July 2021, initially penalty @ Rs.100/KVA per day / Rs.200/KVA per day for the first/subsequent defaults respectively was imposed on the defaulting consumers. However, this penalty did not prove to be sufficient deterrent as the some of the industry was still not observing the regulatory measures owing to prohibitive cost of diesel. Thus, to make the penalty deterrent, without the intent to earn, penalty @ Rs.500/KVA per day was imposed making them observe the regulatory measures.</p> <p>Therefore, the penalty has been proposed as a deterrent only to ensure compliance of power regulatory measures by the consumers for the safety of the grid.</p>
8	During 2022-23, PSPCL is surplus on energy basis during non paddy season as depicted in Annexure-A,	PSPCL has anticipated surplus scenario during non paddy period but the fault in the power system or some other exigencies

	as such there should not be any pre-planned power regulatory measures during non paddy period. If at all required these shall only be real time shortages. This may be confirmed on record by PSPCL.	cannot be ruled out leading to mismatch between demand & supply and thus necessitating the imposition of power cuts / regulatory measures on to the consumers. In recent years, no notified power cuts and regulatory measures have been required/ imposed on any category of industrial consumers except for the period 01-07-2021 to 12-07-2021. Thus, PSPCL always exercises the best options to meet the gap in the demand and availability but due to the reasons explained out in the instant petition, there may be instances to regulate the power to the consumers in case of exigencies.
9	PSPCL has indicated various power regulatory measures in para 12 without indicating relief available from each measure. Merit order of the categories/ services as brought out in para No. 12 of the petition be reviewed and discretion be omitted.	The relief required due to exigencies can be judged from the real time scenario occurring at the time of exigencies and accordingly the relief measures are taken as per merit order of the categories as brought out in para 12 of the petition. PSPCL proposes to impose Power Regulatory Measures in an equitable manner by following order of priority as detailed in the petition except for the paddy season when the priority is to provide 8 hours uninterrupted power supply to the agricultural sector.
10	The figures of peak energy (LU/day) and peak demand (MW) have been compared as per CAGR for 7 years. Hon'ble Commission may direct PSPCL not to impose any regulatory measure on LS industries of the Objector's category fed from Category-3 feeders.	The power regulatory measures are proposed to be imposed in case of exigencies only as per priority order at para 12 of the petition (except during the paddy season).
11	Steel industry in Punjab is still passing through a critical time and is struggling to recover the losses of Covid lock down and previous period of low demand. They have to run the industry sometimes at par or even at a loss just to sustain itself. Under these circumstances, any power cut / weekly off will put the industry into the red zone.	Present Petition has been filed for obtaining guidance of the Hon'ble Commission for regulation of power in case of exigencies since the probability of fault in the power system can't be ruled out. Thus PSPCL has no other option left but to regulate the supply of power to keep the grid in a healthy state till some alternate arrangement is made.
12	In case PSPCL still seeks permission to impose regulatory measures on the industry then payment of fixed charges also needs to be regulated.	The power regulation will be done only in case of exigencies as explained in the petition. Moreover, occurrences of such type of exigencies are unforeseen and may not directly be under the control of PSPCL. PSERC has implemented a two-part tariff w.e.f. 01-01-2018, which is a breakup of the

		<p>existing single part tariff structure/including MMC into a Two Part Tariff comprising of fixed (Load/Demand) charges &amp; Energy charges in order to ensure predictable recovery of fixed costs commitment of the Utility, which are to be incurred to meet the demand of its consumers on one hand, and to reduce the marginal cost of energy charges to the consumers on the other hand. Only a small part of fixed cost is being recovered through fixed charges and that too on 80% of the sanctioned contract demand or actuals, whichever is higher. Therefore, the payment of fixed charges need not be regulated.</p> <p>However, PSPCL will try its best to keep the duration of regulation of power at its minimum by applying rotational power cuts as per the priority order at para 12 of the petition (except during the paddy season) till some alternate arrangement is made.</p>
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## 5. Commission's Observations and Findings

The Petition was taken up for hearing as well as public hearing on 15.03.2022. After considering the submissions made by PSPCL, objection/comments raised/made by the consumers/ organizations and the reply submitted by PSPCL thereon, the Commission decides as under:

- a) The Commission takes note of PSPCL's submission that PSPCL is at present expected to be surplus in power availability from October 2023 to March 2024. However, the gap between the power availability and demand is marginal from May 2023 to September 2023. Further, the projected unrestricted demand is around 15336 MW against the peak demand of 14311 MW last year. As such, unexpected events and circumstances resulting in imbalance in power demand vis-a-vis availability cannot be ruled out due to which PSPCL may be

required to impose regulatory measures to maintain grid security.

b) The Commission authorizes PSPCL to impose regulatory measures including rotational power cuts so as to bridge the gap between demand and supply, only in the most emergent exigencies and system stability requirements. The approval of the Commission in this respect is subject to the following:

- i) Routine power cuts and compulsory weekly off day(s) will not be imposed in Punjab, on any category of consumers.
- ii) However, if regulatory measures for maintaining Grid safety are necessitated in case of any exigency, PSPCL may take Regulatory Measures and impose rotational Power cuts for which information will be communicated to the concerned consumers through SMS/E-Mail (including written intimation wherever possible) and the same shall also be uploaded on its website.
- iii) Unscheduled load shedding, if any, shall only be imposed during sudden outage of generating units or exigencies in the grid. The duration of such load shedding shall be kept to a minimum and as infrequent as feasible. Also, any Regulatory measure by PSPCL shall be as per the order of imposing Power cuts/Regulatory measures submitted by PSPCL and detailed in para No. 2 (ix) (f) above.



- iv) **PSPCL has requested the Commission to allow levy of penalty for violation of the power regulatory measures imposed by PSPCL as per the direction/approval of the Commission in this petition. The Commission does not intend to delegate bulk regulatory power of imposing penalties to PSPCL. However, If at any time PSPCL faces any difficulty in bridging the gap in demand & supply owing to various exigencies even after imposing the above Regulatory Measures and finds violations of such measures by any category of consumers, PSPCL may approach the Commission for seeking requisite directions from the Commission.**
- v) **The Commission shall be informed regarding any emergency situations and resultant system constraints, reasons thereof and details of any power cuts imposed, feeder wise along with their duration and impact on PSPCLs revenues at the earliest, but definitely within a week after such an action is necessitated and taken by PSPCL.**
- c) **The objector has requested that in case regulatory measures are imposed on the industry, the fixed charges may not be taken for those periods. The Commission feels that since these regulatory measures are imposed for a minimum period as necessitated by emergent situations on feeders and consumers scattered across the State, the demand for waiving off/ regulating the fixed charges does**

**not appear to be feasible.**

The petition is disposed of with the above directions.

Sd/-

(Paramjeet Singh)  
Member

Sd/-

(Viswajeet Khanna)  
Chairperson

Chandigarh  
Date: 31.03.2023

