

**PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
SCO NO. 220-221, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH**

**Petition No. 24 of 2014
Date of Order: 15.05.2014**

In the matter of: Petition regarding Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for Domestic / Non-Residential Supply (DS/NRS), Small Power / Medium Supply (SP/MS) and A.P. Consumers.

AND

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

Present: Smt. Romila Dubey, Chairperson
 Shri Virinder Singh, Member
 Shri Gurinder Jit Singh, Member

ORDER

The Commission vide Order dated 24.02.2014 in Petition No. 7 of 2014 had allowed PSPCL to introduce VDS for DS/NRS/SP/MS and AP consumers for three months.

In the present petition, PSPCL has informed that response of the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) has not been encouraging due to some conditions which have been explained as under:

- i. Checking of load for some categories of consumers is not being done regularly and even the verification of test reports of load for new as well as extension in load of existing consumers is not being done. Also no penalty is being levied in case of unauthorised load. In order to help the consumers to assess the actual load connected with PSPCL system, it is proposed that field officers/enforcement agencies may be allowed to visit the premises of DS/NRS, SP/MS and AP consumers during pendency of VDS to make the assessment of the actual load connected by the consumer with the PSPCL system and to educate them to get their unauthorised load regularised under VDS. However, no penalty towards unauthorised load shall be imposed on account of such checking during VDS period. The main purpose is to facilitate the consumer to extend the unauthorised load, so that better response to the VDS scheme may be ensured.

- ii. As per feedback received from various field offices, objections have been raised by the consumers that it is not possible for them to submit the fresh A & A form for availing the benefits of voluntary disclosure scheme, since while submitting the A & A form other supporting documents/NOC pertaining to various departments are being asked under normal extension of load which requires considerable time to obtain. Since the VDS scheme is for limited period, therefore, requirement of such documents make the VDS scheme totally impractical. The unauthorised load is already utilised by the consumers and PSPCL is losing the money on account of additional service connection charges. Therefore asking for completion of all such formalities is virtually defeating the purpose of launching the VDS scheme. Thus the scheme has become the ordinary extension of load for these categories of consumer.
- iii. PSPCL has also requested to extend the period of VDS beyond 31.05.2014 by one month initially i.e upto 30.06.2014, which may be extended further for one month i.e upto 30.07.2014, if situation so demand.

The petition was admitted on 29.04.2014 vide Order dated 05.05.2014 and next date of hearing was fixed for 13.05.2014. After hearing PSPCL at length on 13.05.2014, further hearing of the petition was closed and Order was reserved.

The Commission has gone carefully through the submissions of PSPCL and has considered the difficulties being faced by it in implementing the VDS as allowed by the Commission vide Order dated 24.02.2014 in Petition No.7 of 2014. The Commission is of considered view that it cannot waive off the statutory clearances/ No Objection Certificates required for release of extension in load. The Commission, therefore, decides as under:-

1. Para (i) of the Commission's Order dated 24.02.2014 in Petition No. 7 of 2014 is modified as under:
"During the period VDS remains operative, the field officers/enforcement agencies may visit the premises of DS/NRS/SP/MS and AP consumers to verify the connected load and

to assist the consumers in correct assessment of unauthorized load, if any, which needs to be regularized. However, no penalty/load surcharge on the unauthorized load so detected by checking agencies or self declared by the consumer shall be levied during the period the VDS scheme remains operative. However, the consumer shall be required to either remove the unauthorised load under intimation to PSPCL or get it regularised under VDS”.

2. Para (vii) of the Commission’s order dated 24.02.2014 in Petition no. 7 of 2014 is modified as under:

“The unauthorised load of AP consumers running on LT system shall be deemed to have been regularised on self declaration by the consumer.

The unauthorised load of DS/NRS/SP/MS consumers running on LT system shall be deemed to have been regularised on self declaration by the consumer subject to fulfilment of the conditions as laid down in Conditions of Supply/Supply Code for extension in load. However, PSPCL may take necessary exemptions from the competent authority required there under. In such a case, Conditions of Supply/Supply Code shall be deemed to have been relaxed to that extent”.

3. The documents received from the consumer during this VDS shall be kept in respective consumer files with suitable entries in other relevant record of PSPCL.
4. PSPCL is allowed to extend the period of VDS upto 31.07.2014.
5. All other Terms & Conditions of the Commission’s Order dated 24.02.2014 in petition No. 7 of 2014 shall remain unchanged.

The petition is disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-
(Gurinder Jit Singh)
Member

Sd/-
(Virinder Singh)
Member

Sd/-
(Romila Dubey)
Chairperson

Chandigarh
Dated: 15.05.2014