

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

Petition No. 24 of 2024
Date of Hearing: 08.05.2024
Date of Order: 15.05.2024

Petition under Regulation 44, 45, 46 of Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulations, 2014; read with Regulation 69, 70, 71, 72 of Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2005 for seeking clarifications against Hon'ble Commission's order dated 25.07.2023 in Petition No. 07 of 2021 (for release of the electricity connections in abandoned colonies).

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

.....Petitioner

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

PSPCL: Sh. Ajay Bansal, Dy.CE/TR-II
Sh. Dhanwan Singh, Dy,Chief Engineer
Sh. Rajeev Kapoor, Dy.CE/Regulations
Sh. Pankaj Sharma, AEE
Sh. Mukesh Sharma, ASE
Sh. Gurvinder Singh Addl/SE

ORDER

1. PSPCL has filed the present petition seeking clarification of the order dated 25.07.2023 passed by the Commission in Petition No. 07 of 2021. PSPCL submits that the Order dated 25.07.2023 was implemented vide Commercial Circular No. 43/2023, however PSPCL is facing difficulty in implementation of the Order while dealing the case of release of the

electricity connections to the residents of Sunny Enclave Patiala. PSPCL has sought clarification of the order on the issue of condition of 20% and calculation of development charges.

The Commission observes that the first prayer of the petitioner is regarding whether electricity connection can be released in an abandoned colony after merely the receipt of willingness of at least 20% of such plot/flat holders to pay the development charges or only after at least 20% of such plot/flat holders have paid the development charges. We draw reference to Para 73(3)(iv) of the Order dated 25.07.2023 in Petition No. 7 of 2021 which lays down as under:

“(iv) During the period the issue is being settled by PSPCL with the licensing authority or RWA as discussed above, in order to mitigate the hardship of the residents of the abandoned colonies, the Commission decides and directs that PSPCL may work out the estimated load of the colony and expenditure for laying the LD system including connectivity charges as per the norms and the rates approved by PSPCL for preparing estimates for release of GSC connections and work out the per kW expenditure (development charges) for release of connections in the abandoned colony. In case, at least 20% of the plot/flat holders without electricity connections in such a colony opt to get electricity connections from PSPCL by paying development charges as per the applied load (which shall not be less than the approved norms) then the same may be released to the applicants subject to the condition that in case the development charges deposited by the resident are more than the service connection charge approved by the Commission then the excess amount, if any, shall be refunded

to the resident after recovery of expenses from either the promoter or the Licensing Authority.”

It follows from the above order that the release of electricity connections in an abandoned colony is contingent upon submission of the option by at least 20% of the unit holders without electricity connection to pay the development charges rather than their *en mass* upfront payment of such development charges. After the above mentioned option is collectively submitted by at least 20% of the unit holders without electricity connection in the abandoned colony, PSPCL shall undertake the arrangements necessary to release electricity connections in the colony and shall release the connection to any unit holder upon his/her applying for the same and paying the development charges intimated by the licensee.

Regarding the second prayer of the petitioner in respect of working out development charges, the Commission observes that the computation of development charges shall be subject to the outcome of this petition, pending which the unit holder(s) can get electricity connection by paying the development charges as intimated by the licensee. The same shall be subject to settlement/overhauling as per the outcome of this petition. In their earlier reply in Petition No.13 of 2021, PSPCL had intimated the cost of completing the LD system in the colony and giving connectivity to the colony as Rs. 5.38 crores vis-à-vis Rs.6.72 crores intimated now. PSPCL shall submit within three weeks, the detailed calculations for computing the development charges and the lay out plan of the colony showing the approved LD system along with the reasons for difference vis-à-vis the earlier intimated cost.

The petition shall be taken up for hearing on 24.07.2024 at
11:30 AM.

Sd/-

(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Chandigarh

Dated: 15.05.2024

Sd/-

(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson