

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

Petition No. 46 of 2024
Date of Hearing: 09.10.2024
Date of Order: 16.10.2024

Petition under Regulation 19, 20 and 21 of Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Power Quality) Regulations, 2023 and Regulation 69, 70, 71 & 72 of Chapter XIII of the Conduct of Business Regulations 2005 for allowing time extension to designated consumers without penalty/ compensation for the installation of Power Quality Meters and for allowing time extension to designated consumers for exercising option for installation of PQ meters through PSPCL by paying monthly meter rental.

And

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

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

PSPCL: Ms. Harmohan Kaur, CE/ARR&TR
Sh. Rajiv Kapur, Dy.CE/Regulations
Sh. Baljinderpal Singh, AEE/TR-5
Ms. Amrita Sehra

ORDER

The petition was taken up for hearing. The petition was admitted vide Order dated 01.10.2024. The Commission observes that vide Order dated 24.01.2024 in suo moto Petition No.72 of 2023, the Commission had allowed the rental option for power quality meters in response to the proposal given by PSPCL itself. But PSPCL has now sought extension in the date of giving rental option beyond the specified date i.e. 15.03.2024 due to its failure to procure the meters in time. The Commission observed that repeated delays by PSPCL in procuring power quality meters is jeopardising the timely implementation of Power Quality Regulations. The officer representing PSPCL submitted that the Part I of the latest short term tender for procurement of power quality meters was opened on 08.10.2024 wherein seven bidders had participated. PSPCL is directed to file an affidavit and provide complete timelines of the proposed procurement and installation of

power quality meters i.e. date of opening of Part I of the tenders, time period for evaluation, opening of Part II of the tenders, placement of purchase order, time period for receipt of meters, capability of the PSPCL metering labs to test these meters and time likely to be taken to complete the testing of the meters so procured, schedule of installation of meters and data checking etc.

Upon further query by the Commission, the officer representing PSPCL submitted that the penalty as per the regulations is not being charged either from 177 nos. designated consumers who had given rental option before the specified last date i.e. 15.03.2024 nor from the 575 nos. designated consumers who had given the rental option after 15.03.2024. The Commission expresses displeasure at the arbitrary conduct of PSPCL for violating the Order of the Commission in Petition No.72 of 2023 dated 24.01.2024. The Commission directs PSPCL to explain the reasons for not charging penalty in the case of options received after 15.03.2024 and by what authority the distribution licensee has taken this decision at its own level without the approval of the Commission. Meanwhile, status quo be maintained till the next date of hearing.

PSPCL is further directed to submit the following information/confirmation within two weeks:

- (i) A number of designated consumers have given rental option after 15.03.2024, PSPCL to explain as to why it delayed the present plea placed before the Commission for extension in the date of rental option.
- (ii) As per the proviso to Regulation 13.4 of Power Quality regulations, all the applicants covered under the category of designated consumers seeking new connection or extension in demand shall install PQ meters before the release of connection or extension in demand. The list of such new connections released/load extended to designated consumers after notification of Power Quality regulations be supplied. For each such new connection/extension in load, it may also be intimated whether Power Quality meters have been installed as per the regulations.
- (iii) Confirmation as to whether the raw data of Power Quality meters and the calculation sheet for the ISC/IL are being shared with the designated consumers. The data of some of the consumers sent through e-mail may also be forwarded to the Commission on e-mail.

The Commission finds it appropriate to implead various representative industrial bodies/associations such as Steel Furnace Association – Punjab (Chapter), Mandi Gobindgarh Induction Furnace Association and Apex Chamber of Commerce and Industries as respondents since they have recently submitted representations to the Commission in respect of Power Quality meters. In view of these representations, the Commission considers them as necessary parties in the petition for proper adjudication of the matter. Notice be issued to the respondents. The respondents may file their replies to the petition, if any, within two weeks with a copy to PSPCL (through hard and soft copy). PSPCL may file a detailed reply/rejoinder to the representations/replies given by these bodies/associations. The representations already received by the Commission were forwarded to CE/Metering, PSPCL vide memo no. 3351 dated 23.08.2024 and memo no. 3390 dated 02.09.2024.

Further, till the petition is decided in respect of extension of date beyond 30.09.2024, no punitive action on the designated consumers on account of the same be taken for the time being.

The petition shall be taken up for hearing on 14.11.2024 at 11.30 AM.

Sd/-
(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Sd/-
(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson

Chandigarh
Dated: **16.10.2024**