

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

Petition No. 22 of 2021
Date of Hearing: 19.05.2021
Date of Order: 26.05.2021

Petition for the approval of the PSERC under Clause-21.2.7 of Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters Regulations 2014 (hereinafter referred as Supply Code), as amended from time to time regarding various matters concerning 3 phase whole current smart meters.

AND

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

...Petitioner

Present: Sh. Viswajeet Khanna, Chairperson
Ms. Anjali Chandra, Member
Sh. Paramjeet Singh, Member

PSPCL: Sh. Er. Gurchain Singh Banga, CE/ARR&TR
Sh. Deepak Gupta, SE/TR-2
Sh. Mukesh Kumar, ASE/TR-5
Sh. Lovleen Gupta, AEE/TR-5
Sh. Gurdev Singh Nagi, CE/ Metering
Sh. Charanjit Singh Hazuria, SE/HMC
Sh. Abiraj, Randhawa, Sr.Xen,PO/Metering

ORDER

The officer representing PSPCL submitted that to introduce smart/pre-paid metering technology in the State, an order for the procurement of 96000 three phase whole current smart meters, which can be used in pre-paid mode also, has been placed. PSPCL is proposing to install these meters on consumers with sanctioned load exceeding 7 kW but less than 25 kW. While permitting procurement and installation of smart meters in principle, PSPCL to submit the following information;

1. Whether these meters will be used for release of new connection or for replacement of existing meters.

2. In case, the smart meters are to be used to replace meters of existing consumers, the criteria to select the consumers from amongst the consumers with pre-determined load group and the benefits which the licensee expects to achieve by installing smart meters on these consumers be given.
3. As per Rule 5(1) of Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, "*no connection shall be given without a meter and such meter shall be the smart prepayment meter or pre-payment meter. Any exception to the smart meter or prepayment meter shall have to be duly approved by the Commission. The Commission, while doing so, shall record proper justification for allowing the deviation from installation of the smart pre-payment meter or prepayment meter.*" Accordingly PSPCL should submit the plan to implement the Rule 5(1) and the exemptions which the distribution licensee seeks from the Commission.
4. The pre-paid meters are cheaper option than smart meters. PSPCL should spell out the plan and categories of consumers for which the licensee intends to use pre-paid meters and those where smart meters are to be used.
5. How is PSPCL planning to fund introduction of smart/pre-paid meters so as to avoid differential meter rentals rates to be recovered from consumers with static meters and those having smart meters.
6. The regularisation of excess connected load on the basis of maximum demand recorded cannot be restricted to the consumers with smart meters since maximum demand in kW can be recorded by static meters also. However necessary provision has to be made in Supply Code and may also require amendments in General Conditions of tariff. PSPCL should submit comprehensive proposal in this regard.
7. The Supply Code provides for disconnection and reconnection in case of default in accordance with the provisions of section 56 of Electricity Act, 2003. The connection of a consumer can be disconnected due to default in making payment with 15 days notice. However, in the petition it has been proposed that connection of the consumer with smart meter can be disconnected remotely on second default. How will PSPCL justify two set of rules for disconnection on default.

8. The provisions governing billing in pre-paid mode will be required to be made in the Supply Code. Necessary proposal should be submitted.

PSPCL shall submit the above information by 31.05.2021. Detailed Order shall follow, after the information sought from PSPCL is received.

Sd/-

(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Sd/-

(Anjuli Chandra)
Member

Sd/-

(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson

Chandigarh
Dated: 26.05.2021