

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

Petition No. 22 of 2021
Date of Order: 22.11.2021

Petition for the approval of Hon'ble 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 meteres.

AND

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

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

ORDER

Regulation 21.2.7 of the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulations, 2014 mandates the distribution licensee to make out a plan for introduction and adoption of new technologies such as smart meters, Advance Metering Infrastructure, prepaid meters, time of day meter, Automatic Remote Meter Reading System through appropriate communication system with the approval of the Commission. The Commission vide order dated 01.06.2020 in petition no. 30 of 2019 also directed PSPCL vide directive no. 6.2 that the action plan to install smart / prepaid meters on temporary, Govt. Connections and consumers upto a load of 25 kW (in areas where there are high AT&C losses) may be shared with the Commission).

2. Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has filed the present petition for approval regarding procurement and installation of three phase whole current smart meters on consumers having sanctioned load more than 7 kW but less than 25 kW irrespective of the category of the consumers. The petition was admitted vide order dated 07.04.2021. Vide Order dated 26.05.2021 in principle approval for procurement and installation of smart meters was granted and PSPCL was directed to submit the information as detailed in the order. PSPCL submitted the information vide memo no. 7045 dated 17.08.2021. Vide Order dated 23.08.2021, PSPCL was directed to submit the detailed plan for procurement of meters and the criteria on the basis of which consumers are being presently selected/ would be selected for installation of smart meters and rationale thereof. PSPCL submitted the information vide memo no. 7430 dated 12.10.2021 and the representative appearing on behalf of PSPCL has been heard on 17.11.2021.

Observations and Decision of the Commission

3. The Commission has examined the averments made in the petition, the information submitted by PSPCL in reference to the orders passed by the Commission and allows the procurement of 96000 three phase whole current smart meters subject to the following conditions: -

- (i) The meter rental for the smart meters to be charged from the consumers shall be the same as that for the conventional static meters as approved by the Commission. The difference in rental due to initial higher cost and other operational charges of smart meters shall be met through ARR after following due procedure.

- (ii) In case any consumer provided with smart meter opts for pre-paid metering, PSPCL would provide the same. The necessary infrastructure for implementation of pre-paid metering shall be developed by PSPCL expeditiously.
- (iii) The basic criterion for selection of connections for replacement of already installed conventional static meters with smart meters shall be to curb theft of energy. Accordingly, priority shall be given to high loss areas and to the connections prone to theft.
- (iv) PSPCL shall immediately submit the proposal for regularization of excess load on the basis of maximum demand recorded. Till the approval of such proposal, existing provisions of the Supply Code, 2014 shall apply.
- (v) For disconnection/reconnection in case of the connections with smart meters, existing provisions of the Supply Code, 2014 shall apply.

In case, operationalising of smart meters requires some amendments in Supply Code, 2014, detailed proposal be submitted separately for consideration of the Supply Code Review Panel.

The petition is disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-

(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Sd/-

(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson

Chandigarh
Dated: 22.11.2021