

**PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
**Plot No. 3, Madhya Marg, Sector-18-A, Chandigarh**

**ORDER**  
**Date:11.10.2023**

**In the matter of**

**Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) (13<sup>th</sup> Amendment), 2023**

**1. Introduction**

The Commission issued the draft notification regarding Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) (13<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Regulations, 2023 along with Explanatory Memorandum seeking comments/objections/suggestions from the public/stakeholders by 18.08.2023. The Public Hearing was also held on 23.08.2023. The comments/objections/suggestions have been received only from PSPCL. The officer representing PSPCL also made submissions in the Public Hearing. The analysis and decision on these comments/objections/suggestions along with reasons for same are as under:

**2. Amendments in Regulation 2, 4.3.9(a), 4.3.9(b) and 4.3.9(d) of the Principal Regulations**

No comments/objections/suggestions were received from any stakeholder and the amendments in these regulations as per the draft notification are approved.

**3. Amendment of Regulation 4.3.1 of the Principal Regulations**

The draft notification envisaged that a group of new/existing HT/EHT consumers who are the associate/subsidiary companies having contiguous premises with their total contract demand above 4000 kVA may jointly install 33 kV or higher voltage cluster sub-station. PSPCL has suggested to omit the conditions of the constituents being associate/subsidiary companies with contiguous premises. Further, in case of non-availability of right of way for feeding the cluster sub-station from the nearest feeding grid sub-station, PSPCL has suggested additional option of using underground cable. PSPCL has also omitted the condition that the existing HT/EHT line feeding a continuous processing industry or essential industry shall not be tapped to feed other category of

consumers or vice versa. PSPCL has not adduced any pointed justification for their suggestions except for citing some specific cases. PSPCL has only brought out that providing 66 kV line to every cluster sub-station from grid sub-station is always not possible due to the constraint of the right of way for towers or non-availability of space for erection of bay or new breaker and that there will be no adverse effect to PSPCL and catering any consumer at higher voltage is always in the interest of PSPCL as it reduces the T&D losses. Further, 11kV feeders/breaker of existing consumers opting for 66 kV Cluster sub-station will become spare which can be used for giving connections to other 11 kV consumers.

### **Analysis and Decision**

The Commission is of the view that another option of underground cable for feeding the cluster sub-station as suggested by PSPCL can also be added. In fact, the first priority shall be to feed the cluster sub-station through HT/EHT line on lattice towers directly from the nearest feeding grid sub-station. In case the right of way is not available for such HT/EHT line on lattice towers from the nearest feeding grid sub-station, other options for feeding the cluster sub-station from the nearest feeding grid sub-station and in-between grid sub-station including the underground cable can be used.

PSPCL has not given any specific rationale for omitting the conditions of the constituents being associate/subsidiary companies having contiguous premises. However, to ensure that the provision does not get restricted to only the companies, other concerns such as partnership/sole proprietorship firms have also been included. The provision of contiguity has been retained so that the constituents may fall within the same accounting unit of the licensee. Moreover, it is imperative that in case an existing HT/EHT line is tapped to feed cluster sub-station, the user profile should not be starkly dissimilar adversely affecting the existing consumer(s) or the cluster constituents. Thus, the Commission decides to retain the provision that in case of tapping of existing HT/EHT line to feed the cluster sub-station, the existing line feeding continuous industry or

essential industry shall not be tapped to feed other category of consumers or vice versa.

The draft regulation has accordingly been amended.

4. **Amendment of Regulation 4.3.8 of the Principal Regulations**

The draft notification envisaged to delete the existing proviso i.e. where 11 kV feeder(s) for individual cluster constituent member(s) is/are required to be erected/laid in public land, the same shall be erected/laid and maintained by licensee at the cost of that constituent member(s). PSPCL has suggested to retain the aforementioned provision.

**Analysis and Decision**

As the condition of contiguity envisaged in the draft notification is being retained, it is accordingly decided to delete the said proviso in Regulation 4.3.8 of the Principal Regulations.

5. **Amendment of Regulation 4.3.9(c) of the Principal Regulations**

PSPCL has suggested to omit the condition for the prospective constituents to be an associate/subsidiary company of the existing constituent member.

**Analysis and Decision**

Since the condition for the constituents to be associate/subsidiary companies has been retained in Regulation 4.3.1, the suggestion of PSPCL is not being accepted.

6. **Amendment of Regulation 4.3.7 of the Principal Regulations**

PSPCL has suggested to delete the provision that each consumer (constituent member of the cluster sub-station) shall be deemed to be connected at the voltage at which supply is catered to the cluster sub-station. PSPCL has further proposed that no voltage rebate be provided to the constituents members.

**Analysis and Decision**

It is altogether a new suggestion from PSPCL which was not given earlier nor was deliberated upon by Supply Code Review Panel. It was also not subject to suggestions/objections/comments from the public/stakeholders. The proposal regarding providing no voltage rebate to the cluster

constituents may have major ramification in respect of the very concept of the cluster sub-station and may also be antithetical to the premise of the specified supply voltage to cluster sub-station. Therefore, it cannot be considered at this stage without wider deliberations.

7. PSPCL has proposed a new regulation that the total number of EHT consumers including cluster sub-station (one cluster sub-station to be considered as one EHT consumer) on any EHT line shall not exceed 5 nos. irrespective of size of conductor. Further, cluster sub-station shall not have more than 5 nos. of constituent members.

PSPCL has reasoned that for ensuring proper energy audit, control of theft of electricity and fault clearance, maximum number of consumers and cluster sub-stations need to be restricted on EHT line. PSPCL has added that cluster sub-station shall be counted as one consumer for this purpose and as per existing data, maximum constituent members in the cluster sub-station in Punjab is five.

#### **Analysis and Decision**

The proposal given by PSPCL is not backed by any scientific study or data analytics. Moreover, the specific limit proposed by PSPCL has not been deliberated upon by the Supply Code Review Panel. It was also not part of the draft notification and thus was not subject to the suggestions/objections/comments from the public/stakeholders. Accordingly, the proposal is not being accepted.

8. PSPCL has proposed a new regulation that in case an existing EHT consumer wants to convert into a cluster sub-station from existing arrangement then same shall be allowed. No voltage rebate shall be admissible to the constituent members except for existing EHT consumer, if so applicable.

#### **Analysis and Decision**

The proposal is not being accepted in view of the reasons given in Para 6 above.

Sd/-

**(Paramjeet Singh)**  
Member

Sd/-

**(Viswajeet Khanna)**  
Chairperson

Chandigarh  
Dated: 11.10.2023

