



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार Government of India

शक्ति विभाग Ministry of Power

उत्तर-पूर्व क्षेत्रीय शक्ति आयोग

North Eastern Regional Power Committee

उत्तर-पूर्व क्षेत्रीय शक्ति आयोग, भारत सरकार, शक्ति विभाग, दिल्ली

Meghalaya State Housing Finance Co-Operative Society Ltd.

Building

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ISO 9001:2008

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No. NERPC/OP/OCC/2012/ 4704-14

Date: 31st August, 2012

To,

1. Chairman & Managing Director, TSECL, Banamalipur, Agartala - 799 001
2. Chairman & Managing Director, ASEB, Bijuli Bhawan, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati - 1
3. Director (Distribution), Me. ECL, Lumjingshai, S.R. Road, Shillong - 793 002
4. Chief Engineer (WEZ), Dept. of Power, Govt. of Ar. Pradesh, Itanagar - 791 111
5. Engineer-in-Chief, Dept. of Power, Govt. of Mizoram, Aizawl - 796 001
6. Chief Engineer (P), Dept. of Power, Govt. of Manipur, Keishampat, Imphal - 795 001
7. Chief Engineer (P), Dept. of Power, Govt. of Nagaland, Kohima - 797 001
8. Executive Director, NERTS, POWERGRID, Lower Nongrah, Lapalang, Shillong - 6
9. Addl. General Manager, NERLDC, Lower Nongrah, Lapalang, Shillong - 793 006

Sub: Minutes of Special Committee Meeting of NER Power Committee Meetings held at Guwahati.

Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of Special Committee meeting held at **"Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok", Guwahati** on the **24th August, 2012** for your kind information and necessary action. The same is also available on the website of NERPC, www.nerpc.nic.in.

भवदीय / Yours faithfully,

(ए. के. मिश्रा / A. K. Mishra)

सदस्य सचिव / Member Secretary (I/C)

Copy for kind information to:-

1. PS to Chairman, NERPC and Hon'ble Minister of Power, Govt. of Nagaland, Kohima - 1
2. Member (GO&D), CEA, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi - 110066

North Eastern Regional Power Committee

Summary Record of Discussions

Special Committee Meeting

The Special Committee meeting was held on 24th August, 2012 at "Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok," Guwahati under the Chairmanship of Shri N.S. Chakraborty, CMD, TSECL. The meeting was hosted by POWERGRID.

The list of participants of the meeting is enclosed at **Annexure - I**.

Proceedings of the Special Committee meeting

The meeting started with the welcome address by Shri A. K. Mishra, MS I/C, NERPC. He welcomed Shri N. S. Chakravorty, Chairman of the Special Committee & CMD, TSECL and all other members of the committee. He thanked POWERGRID for making excellent arrangements for the meeting within a short notice. He requested all members for active participation in the deliberations and to contribute for a fruitful outcome.

Thereafter, Member Secretary I/C requested Shri B. Lyngkhai, SE (O), NERPC to take up the agenda items for discussion.

PART - A

REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE INSULATOR STRINGS IN TRANSMISSION LINES OF POWERGRID IN NER - PGCIL

During 10th TCC meeting of NERPC, technical necessity of replacement of Insulator Strings was agreed by beneficiary States and it was also agreed to allow "Deemed Availability" status without commercial benefit to POWERGRID. However, POWERGRID indicated that this will have serious implications in their Books of A/C. It was then decided to defer the matter to next TCC/RPC meeting.

During 11th NERPC meeting POWERGRID stated that a large number of Insulator Strings in several lines in NER have developed defects for reasons beyond the control of POWERGRID and replacement of such large number of defective insulators may not be considered as regular maintenance work. After deliberation, Chairman NERPC suggested that the issue be discussed in the forthcoming special TCC meeting.

During Special TCC meeting of NERPC on 5th Aug'11, POWERGRID requested for "deemed availability" for the outage period for replacement of insulators as it will improve availability of NER system. In Northern Region also deemed availability benefit for replacement of ceramic insulators with polymer insulators has been agreed by constituents. MS, NERPC stated that with the replacement of insulators the NER grid performance will improve and outage due to insulator failure will be reduced. He requested constituents to firm up their views and convey their decision in the next TCC/RPC meeting.

During 12th NERPC Meeting, POWERGRID gave detail presentation and indicated financial implications for replacement of defective insulators. Accordingly, during the presentation, POWERGRID informed that they will spend around ` 22.32 Crores, without burdening the constituents, to replace approximately 22000 nos. of defective insulators strings in balance 31 nos. of Transmission lines for which approximately 6000 hours of shut down will be required in 24 months to complete the job.

POWERGRID informed that they will spend the entire expenditure of replacement amounting to ` 22.32 Crores in two years time without burdening the constituents. On the other hand, the onetime burden of incentive of ` 2.82 Crores on account of deemed availability will be shared by all the constituents ER, NR, WR and NER as per the latest CERC regulation dated 04.04.2011.

RPC members requested POWERGRID to work out the breakup of ` 2.82 Crores so that the constituents would know how much burden they will have to bear to consider deemed availability and get the job done by POWERGRID in minimum time frame of two years for the benefit of NER.

During 13th TCC meeting, NERTS, POWERGRID made a presentation highlighting the need of replacement of defective insulator strings.

NER constituents did not agree for "Deemed Availability" and reiterated that in principle they would not agree for the same.

Representative from ERPC stated that there has been no such case of "Deemed Availability" in ER till now. He further added that under PoC regime, this would affect transmission charge payment by all regions of the country.

NERLDC stressed on the reliability and security of the grid and stated that under the present grid condition, any single element of the transmission system is extremely vital especially taking into account synchronization of Palatana GBPP. There should be attempt to avoid forced outage of any grid element by taking appropriate pro-active measures. It was also clarified that the amount arising out of "Deemed Availability" would be mostly shared by other regions in PoC regime. He suggested that a working group consisting of NER states may examine and decide on the issue before putting up to TCC/RPC for approval.

During 13th NERPC meeting, CMD, ASEB stated that NER constituents did not agree for "Deemed Availability" and reiterated that in principle they would not agree for the same. Further, he stated that if POWERGRID wants they can approach CERC to grant them incentive by reducing their present availability from 99% to 97% for NE region. All other constituents supported the view of CMD, ASEB.

GM, POWERGRID, NERTS stated that question of not replacing the defective insulators by POWERGRID does not arise. But, if the deemed availability is not considered, POWERGRID will replace the insulators on opportunity basis which will take considerable time (5 Years or more) to complete the replacement.

AGM, NERLDC stated that insulators are punctured mainly due to frequent lightning and most of the insulators are damaged. Further, he stated that unless transmission lines are kept in healthy condition maintenance of the grid would be very difficult in case of any contingency.

Hon'ble Power Minister, Govt. of Meghalaya stated that delay in replacement of insulators will create problem to grid and common people will be the sufferer. Accordingly, he suggested for forming a committee for carrying out detailed study.

After detailed deliberation, the Committee decided that a special committee should be constituted by NERPC to discuss the issue. Member Secretary, NERPC will be the convener for the special meeting.

Deliberation of the Special Committee

MS I/C, NERPC stated that this matter has been discussed since 10th NERPC meeting. He briefed the issue in detail and requested NERTS, POWERGRID to give the presentation on the issue.

GM, NERTS gave the detail presentation of the latest status of the replacement of insulator strings. In the presentation, he highlighted the reasons of insulator puncture and further informed that POWERGRID has already completed the Puncture Insulator Detector (PID) scanning for most of the lines and remaining work will be completed during next dry season. He also informed that the replacement of two-third (2/3) of the defective insulator strings have already been completed by POWERGRID on opportunity basis. Only one-third (1/3) of the work of the replacement of defective insulator strings is left out, which is required to be attended urgently to reduce the number of trippings so as to make the system healthy and reliable. He also highlighted that the numbers of tripping have been reduced drastically over the years from fifty (50) to less than ten (10) after the replacement of defective insulator strings. As far as financial burden is concerned, he informed that the NER constituents will have to pay only ` 5.7 Lakhs over the period of two years, which will be about ` 24,000/- per month for two years. The presentation form POWERGRID is attached at **Annexure-A**.

He requested all the constituents to consider the proposal of replacement of defective insulator strings either for "Deemed Availability" or for "Force Majeure" as per the relevant CERC.

The Chairman of the Committee, Shri N.S. Chakraborty, CMD, TSECL stated that in coming years generation addition of about 2000 MW is expected in NER system and the evacuation of power from generating stations should be done efficiently for the benefit of the region.

He also appreciated effort of POWERGRID for completing the two-third (2/3) of the work on opportunity basis and the proposal for completing the remaining one-third (1/3) of the work within two working seasons (two years).

Further, he stressed that with the increase in generation the lower voltage lines (132 kV lines) are required to be made strong enough and reliable to evacuate the power from new generating stations. So, the necessity of the work cannot be denied and it is to be completed within a reasonable time. He also stated that the transmission system should be strengthened so that States should be able to evacuate power as there will be huge capacity charges even though if they cannot consume it.

He requested all the constituents to put their views taking into account the seriousness of the problem and benefit to the region by replacement of defective insulators so that the matter can be put up to next NERPC meeting.

Representatives from the Assam put up the views of CMD, APDCL which are as given below:

1. Normal incentive is allowed in return of any service rendered. During shut down period the Distribution Licensees would be deprived of transmission service.
2. For encouraging competition, efficiency and good performance the CERC also provided incentive for maintaining availability of transmission system over 98% as per tariff guidelines enumerated in Para 61 of the 'Electricity Act' 2003. Incentive is admissible for availability of transmission system above certain normative level, not at zero availability level.

3. In the instant case the system shall remain out of service. There is no provision in the CERC to allow incentive at zero level. This is clearly against the tariff guidelines enumerated in the 'Electricity Act' 2003 as well as the CERC Regulatory provisions.
4. Distribution Licensee would not get any service from the CTU network which would go under shut down and thereby it cannot provide energy supply to its esteemed consumers. On the other hand the Distribution Licensee will have to pay to the generating project associated with the transmission network which would go under shut down.
5. The matter should be seen on objective point of view, not subjectively. Any liability on account of acceptance deemed availability and incentive thereupon will ultimately go to the ultimate consumers. APDCL has moral responsibility to look into the interest of consumers also.
6. APDCL is objecting as a matter of principle as if it is agreed once this would be a bad precedent. The quantum of money involved is not an issue. Once deemed availability is given for shutdown for repair/renovation (other than what is within the powers of Member Secretary, NERPC) this will take away the urgency on the part of the CTU to restore breakdown etc. as deemed availability would be due to them.

In view of above, APDCL requested the members of the special committee not to go against provisions of the 'Electricity Act' 2003 or CERC Regulatory guidelines.

The representative of Nagaland stated that replacement of such a huge number of the insulator strings could be due to accumulation of defective insulators over the years and should not be taken as a force majeure. He further enquired that if POWERGRID cannot complete the work within the stipulated time, constituent states should not be deprived of power and financial burden should not be there as per CERC regulations due to non availability of lines.

GM, NERTS clarified that problem was there since long time and the replacement work could not be completed due to non-availability of shutdown of various lines and unavailability of required number of gangs to execute the work. He further clarified that POWERGRID will try to execute the replacement work during planned shutdown periods approved in OCC meeting and the period exceeding the stipulated time will be attributable to POWERGRID.

CE (WZ), Ar. Pradesh appreciated POWERGRID for completion of such huge task of replacement of defective insulators in two-third (2/3) area of NER. He strongly supported the proposal of POWERGRID to replace the defective insulator strings for reliable and safe operation of the system. Further, he requested POWERGRID to reduce the proposed working hours (2592 Hrs.), if possible, by deploying more gangs.

GM, NERTS clarified that about 20 gangs are to be deployed for execution of replacement work and it is very difficult to get more gangs to reduce the working hours mentioned above. However, POWERGRID will try their best to complete the work within the stipulated period.

SE, Me.ECL agreed on the line that the force majeure status may be given, but not for all the cases of shutdowns.

SE, Manipur agreed with the proposal of POWERGRID and stated that the duration of shutdown should not go beyond the stipulated time.

Representatives of Mizoram also supported the view of Meghalaya.

GM, NERTS, POWERGRID stated that if the line is not returned to service in stipulated time, the extra outage hours would be attributed to POWERGRID.

After detail deliberation the committee decided that the forum should not go for any 'Deemed Availability status" or against any guidelines of CERC. Keeping in view the requirement of system strengthening the committee agreed to consider it as a "force

majeure” as per CERC regulation so that the power reaches to each corner of the States and it will be benefited to the NER States.

Member Secretary (I/C), NERPC recalled the decision of 13th NERPC meeting and reiterated that as per CERC (Terms & conditions of tariff) Regulation, 2009 under Appendix – IV clause 6, outage time of transmission elements beyond the control of transmission licensee shall be excluded from the total time of the element under period of consideration. However, onus of satisfying the Member Secretary, RPC that element outage was due to aforesaid event and not due to design failure shall rest with the transmission licensee. A reasonable restoration time for the element shall be considered by RPC and any additional time for restoration of the element beyond the reasonable time shall be treated as outage time attributable to transmission licensee.

Committee recommended for RPC approval.

PART: B	ANY OTHER ITEMS:
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PART – B.1	STATUS OF FOREST CLEARANCE OF VARIOUS UPCOMING TRANSMISSION LINES AS ON 03.08.2012:
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1. Silchar-P.K Bari line: (Target completion –Dec 2012)

The line is expected to be delayed due to non-availability of forest clearance. The status of forest clearance proposals against the line is as below:

- Tripura Portion: First stage approval awaited. Proposal is with RMoEF, Shillong, SAG meeting yet to be convened.
- Assam Portion: First stage approval awaited. The proposal is being forwarded by Nodal Officer (Forest), Assam to Regional MoEF, Shillong on 07.08.2012.

2. Silchar- Meleriat line: (Target completion – Mar 2013)

The line is expected to be delayed due to non-availability of forest clearance. The status of forest clearance proposals against the line is as below:

- Mizoram Portion: First stage approval awaited. Proposal is with MoEF, Delhi and is to be put up in next FAC meeting. FRA compliance is yet to be obtained.
- Assam Portion: First stage approval awaited. Case is with Nodal Officer (Forest, Assam for onward submission to Govt. of Assam and Regional MoEF, Shillong.

3. Silchar-Imphal line: (Target completion – Feb 2013)

The line is expected to be delayed due to non-availability of forest clearance. The status of forest clearance proposals against the line is as below:

- Manipur Portion: First stage approval awaited. Proposal is with MoEF, Delhi. FRA compliance is yet to be obtained.
- Assam Portion: First stage approval awaited. Proposal is with Nodal officer for onward submission to Govt. of Assam and Regional MoEF, Shillong.

4. Mariani-Mokokchung line: (Target completion – Feb 2013)

The line is expected to be delayed due to non-availability of forest clearance. The status of forest clearance proposals against the line is as below:

- Assam Portion : First stage approval awaited. Case is presently with Nodal Officer. NOC from wildlife awaited.

5. Bongaigoan_BTPS line: (Target completion – Dec 2012)

The line is expected to be delayed due to non-availability of forest clearance. The status of forest clearance proposals against the line is as below:

- Case is presently with Nodal Officer (Forest), Assam for onward submission to Govt. of Assam and Regional MoEF, Shillong.

6. Pasighat-Roing-Tezu-Namsai lines :

The line is expected to be delayed due to non-availability of forest clearance. The status of forest clearance proposals against the line is as below:

- 1st Stage clearance awaited. Clearance proposals are still with respective DFO/CFs. Gram Sabha meeting for FRA compliance being conducted, however, FRA compliances yet to be obtained.

7. 400 KV D/C lower Subansiri-Bishwanath Chariali Line I & II:

- (Assam portion): Proposal agreed in principle in the last FAC meeting. However, DFO, Lakhimpur (on advise of DC, Lakhimpur) has proposed for re-alignment of 08 km line in forest area to revenue land in view of presence of one endemic species of the area. The new route as finalized with DC, Lakhimpur is being surveyed by POWERGRID. NO has also written to DFO, Lakhimpur on 30.06.12 to resubmit the forest proposal after finalizing the alignment.

8. 400 KV D/C (Quad) Balipara-Bongaigoan T/L: (Target completion – Mar 2013)

The line is expected to be delayed due to non-availability of forest clearance. The status of forest clearance proposals against the line is as below:

- First stage approval awaited. Proposals for three reserved forests involved are with Nodal Officer, Assam.

ED, NERTS, POWERGRID deliberated the issue of forest clearances for the above lines and stated that POWERGRID is trying their best to get the clearances but due to delay in processing the case by Dept. of Forest, the commissioning of the above lines may get delayed. If these lines are not completed in time, the power cannot be evacuated and States may have to bear the burden of payment to generators without availing allocated shares.

The committee requested all the State utilities to extend their help to POWERGRID in getting the forest clearances early.

Member Secretary (I/C) also requested POWERGRID to submit the details of transmission system associated with Pallatana & Bongaigoan projects which have been executed to NERPC Secretariat. Similarly the details of lines for which they are facing difficulties in execution may also be submitted giving sections of the particular line, location of towers and states involved so that the matter can be pursued at different levels to expedite the execution process. POWERGRID agreed.

The Committee noted as above.

PART - B.2	OUTCOME OF NATIONAL POWER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD on 21.08.2012 - NERPC
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SE (Comml), NERPC informed that after the major grid disturbance on 30th and 31st July, 2012, the enquiry committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri A.S. Bakshi, Chairperson, CEA had submitted the report to Ministry of Power on 16th of August, 2012 and report has been made available on website of MoP.

He deliberated following issues, which were discussed during the 4th National Power Committee (NPC) meeting held on 21.08.2012 at New Delhi in the wake of occurrence of the major grid disturbances on 30th & 31st July 2012:

1. Compliance of instruction of RLDCs by the SLDCs
2. Upgradation of SLDCs, capacity building of manpower and compensation structure etc.
3. Long, medium & short term plans by the States for procurement of power
4. Review of protection system (Audit of protection systems, application of PMUs, deployment of SPS, time synchronization of DRs, ELs, PMUs)
5. Implementation of Islanding Schemes

6. Adoption of Good O&M practices
7. Transfer capability determination by the States
8. Ensuring proper functioning of defence mechanism (UFR, df/dt relays based automatic load shedding schemes, audit of devices like HVDC, TCSC, SVC and PSS)
9. Reactive power planning
10. Co-ordinated Outage planning of inter-state and inter-regional transmission elements
11. Deployment of WAMS
12. Strengthening of communication network
13. Reduction in start-up time for generators
14. Strengthening of system study groups in various power sector organizations
15. Improved telecom infrastructure for cyber security using Multi Protocol Level Switching (MPLS)

He suggested that the modality for implementation of various recommendations of the enquiry committee is required to be discussed in detail in OCC and PCC.

The committee noted as above.

ANNEXURE - I

List of Participant in Special Committee Meeting

Organisation	Name S/Shri	Designation
Arunachal Pradesh	1. J. Tato	CE (WEZ)
Assam	1. Sanjib Baruah 2. K. Goswami	GM (Com), APGCL AGM (CommI), APDCL
Manipur	1. Birjit Singh	Superintending Engineer
Meghalaya	1. A. Kharpan	Superintending Engineer, SLDC
Mizoram	1. Lalnunsanga	Assistant Engineer
Nagaland	1. T. Walling	Executive Engineer (T)
Tripura	1. N. S. Chakraborty 2. M. Debbarma	CMD, TSECL Addl. General Manager
NERLDC	1. T. S. Singh	Addl. General Manager
POWERGRID	1. D. K. Sarma 2. A. Patir 3. Supratim Das 4. H. Talukdar	Executive Director, NERTS General Manager, NERTS Dy. General Manager (OS) Manager
NERPC	1. A. K. Mishra 2. S.K. Ray Mohapatra 3. B. Lyngkhoi 4. D.K. Bauri	Member Secretary (I/C) Superintending Engineer (C) Superintending Engineer (O) Executive Engineer (O)