



ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
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APERC - Practice directions for release of LT agricultural connections by DISCOMs - Issued - Regarding.

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Practice Directions No. 02/APERC/ TR-1007 /2021

Date: 23-03-2021

Read the following:

1. Licensees' Duty for Supply Electricity on request Regulation 4 of 2013 as amended from time to time
2. Licensees' Standards of Performance Regulation 7 of 2004 as amended from time to time

ORDER

The Commission has noticed serious irregularities in the release of agricultural connections by DISCOMs. In accordance with clauses 4(1) & 4(2) of the Regulation referred 1st above, the DISCOM shall:

1. have to maintain a wait list of applicants seeking LT agriculture connection, based on the date of receipt of the applications;
2. have to acknowledge the receipt of the application within 2 days;
3. intimate the charges to be paid, in writing, within one week from the date of receipt of the application; and
4. communicate, in writing, the serial number of the waiting list to the applicant within 15 days of receipt of the application.

The Commission noticed that this mandate, as laid down by the Regulation, is not being followed by the DISCOMs. The maintenance of the waiting lists at the Section level, is found to be wanting on many counts. No proper acknowledgments are being issued to the applicants, more so within the prescribed time. The intimation of charges is not happening in writing, thereby necessitating frequent errands by the applicants around the DISCOMs' offices. The serial number in the waiting list, is not at all being communicated in writing to the applicants. More often than not, applicants who have applied

earlier and have paid all the charges are being made to wait for the release of services, while, for people who have applied later than them, the services are being released. Release and charging of DTrs also is happening at the whims and fancies of the local officers. These observations are made based on the data obtained from one selected Section from each DISCOM. The violations have been communicated to the respective DISCOMS.

The Commission takes serious note of the deviant practices being followed. The DISCOMs are hereby directed to adhere to the provisions of the Regulation cited above, without fail.

Further, in order to ensure a uniform treatment of the applicants at the State level, the following practice directions are issued with regard to release of agricultural connections:

1. Within 2 days of submission of application, the DISCOM shall acknowledge the receipt of the application.
2. Within 7 days of date of receipt of the application, the DISCOM shall communicate, in writing, the charges payable by the applicant.
3. A seniority list of all the applicants, who have paid the estimated charges communicated as above, shall be maintained at the Section level and the serial number of the applicant in that waiting list shall be communicated within 7 days from the date of payment to the applicants. This waiting list shall be maintained based on the date and time of payment of the estimate charges.
4. Every Monday, the Section office shall upload the list of additions to its waiting list and the list of agricultural services released in the previous week, in the website of the DISCOM. From such Section level waiting lists, the DISCOM shall prepare and publish combined waiting lists at the concerned Sub Division / Division level and publish the same on its website. Such waiting lists shall be updated on a weekly basis.
5. All agricultural connections shall be released as per the combined waiting list being maintained at the Division level subject to the out of turn releases as prescribed by the Government in favour of SC & ST applicants from time to time..

6. The Corporate Office shall allocate Distribution Transformers for new agricultural services in proportion to the number of pending applications Circle wise.
7. The Circle Offices of DISCOMs shall allocate the DTrs received in proportion to the number of pending applications Division wise.
8. The Division Offices of DISCOMs, shall allocate DTrs to the Sections as per the Division wise waiting list.
9. If and when the GoAP communicates the quota for release of agricultural services, if any, in a year, the same shall be allocated as per the procedure indicated above.

Non-adherence to the practice directions given above, will be viewed seriously by the Commission and appropriate action will be initiated against the concerned in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003.

(By order of the Hon'ble Commission)


Commission Secretary^(i/c)

To

The Chairman and Managing Director/APCPDCL/ Vijayawada
The Chairman and Managing Director/AEPDCL/Visakhapatnam
The Chairman and Managing Director/APSPDCL/Tirupati