



ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PD/APERC/Secy/S-117

Date: 29-01-2020.

Sub: APERC – Practice directions on issue of notices before levying Capacitor Surcharge, Regularizing Additional Loads and Collection of Additional Security Deposits – Communicated – Reg.

Ref: 1. Hon'ble Chairman's directions during the recently concluded Public Hearings on ARR & FPT filings from 7th January, 2020 to 11th January, 2020
2. Minutes of the 14th SAC meeting held at Tirupathi on 13th January, 2020.

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During the recently concluded public hearings on ARR & Proposed Tariff filings, many a consumer complained that capacitor surcharge on consumers who are under kWh billing, demands pertaining to regularization of additional loads and demands for additional security deposits, are being raised automatically in the monthly bills i.e., without giving any prior notice. It is further agitated that as the field officers are found to be taking shelter behind the computer-generated billing systems and conveying that the removal / rectification of demands is not in their hands, the consumers are forced to approach the CGRF. Such conduct is against the letter and spirit of the provisions contained in the approved General Terms and Conditions of Service (GTCS) and the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Security Deposit) Regulation, 2004.

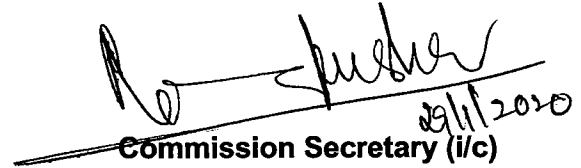
Clauses 12.1.2 & 12.1.4 contemplate giving of a 30 day notice to the consumers for either installing the capacitors or replacement / rectification of defective or de-rated capacitors. Such notice must be in the prescribed form as per Appendix VIII(A) or Appendix VIII(B) of the GTCS. If the consumers, even after receiving such notices do not either install or replace/rectify the capacitors already installed, then only a notice demanding them to pay the capacitor surcharge immediately has to be issued. Even then, if the consumer wishes to challenge the levy he can do so within 15 days from the time of receipt of the notice. In the event that the levy remains unpaid and unchallenged, the DISCOM can disconnect the supply.

Clause 12.3.3 of the GTCS deals with regularizing additional loads in LT cases. The regularization of additional loads must be preceded by issuing a notice giving clear 30 days' time, in the prescribed form mentioned in Appendix IX of the GTCS.

Demanding additional security deposit is governed by clause 6 of the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Security Deposit) Regulation, 2004. This clause also contemplates giving a clear 30 days' notice for demanding the additional security deposit.

The DISCOMs are hereby directed to ensure that the letter and spirit of the GTCS and the Regulation mentioned above are strictly adhered to while levying capacitor surcharge, regularizing additional loads or demanding additional security deposit. Any deviation would be viewed seriously and would be a sufficient reason for the Commission to initiate action u/s 142 and 146 of the Electricity Act, 2003. All the field offices of the DISCOMs shall be made aware of these practice directions and the same shall also be made available on the websites of the DISCOMs.

(By order of the Commission)


Commission Secretary (i/c)

TO:

1. The Chairman & Managing Director
APEPDCL, Corporate Office,
Seethmmadhara, P&T Colony,
Visakhapatnam – 530 013

2. The Chairman & Managing Director
APSPDCL, D.NO:19-13-65/A,
Srinivasapuram, Tiruchanoor Road,
Tirupati, Chittoor District – 517 503.

3. The Chairman & Managing Director
APCPDCL, Government I.T.I Road,
Vijayawada, Krishna District – 520 010

Copy to:

The Vidyut Ombudsman, AP, Vijayawada
The Chairman, CGRF, Tirupathi
The Chairman, CGRF, Visakhapatnam