

MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE SAC HELD AT NERC'S COURTROOM, KOHIMA ON 18TH March, 2014.

The State Advisory Committee Meeting of the NERC was held at NERC Office Complex on 18th March, 2014. The Meeting was chaired by Er. D. A. Shishak, Chairman-cum-Member (NERC), Kohima. At the very outset, the Chairman welcomed all the SAC Members of the NERC and all those representing Department such as Er. Imli Ao, Addl. Chief Engineer (D&R), Department of Power, Nagaland and Er. Imliakum Imchen, J.E (Elect) Department of N&RE, Nagaland in the 8th SAC Meeting of the NERC, Kohima.

The SAC Members conveyed congratulations to Er. D.A. Shishak on his appointment to the post of Chairman-cum-Member, NERC, Kohima.

The following Members and Ex-officio Members attended the meeting:-

1. Mr. C.R.Lotha, Member.
2. Mr. Bendangnukshi Longkumer, Member.
3. Mr. T.Meren Paul, Member.
4. Capt. Hekiye Sema, Member.
5. Mr. Medoselhou Keretsu, Member.
6. Mr. Kitoho S. Rotokha, Member.
7. Mr. Khosapa Venuh, Member.
8. Mr. Bishnu Bhattacharjee, Member.
9. Mr. S. Manlip Konyak, Member.
10. Mr. Keyileuhingbe Elu, Member.
11. Mr. Abhinandan Goswami, Member
12. Er. Imli Ao, Addl. Chief Engineer (D&R), Department of Power, Nagaland
13. Er. Imliakum Imchen, Junior Engineer (Elect), Department of New & Renewable Energy, Nagaland.
14. Er. Donray Shishak, Chairman and Ex-officio Chairman, SAC.

Items discussed during the Meeting were as follows:

1. Implementation of Sop, CGRF & Ombudsman and Open Access Regulations by the Department of Power, Nagaland.
2. Bifurcation (Power Department) and Unbundling of Power Sector in Nagaland.
3. Awareness Creation Efforts of the NERC – THE WAY FORWARD, suggestions of SAC Members.
4. ARR & Tariff Petition for FY 2014-15 filed by the Department of Power, Nagaland (DPN). The petition is in advanced stage of processing and Tariff Order targeted to be passed by the end of March, 2014.

The 8th SAC Meeting was chaired by Er. D. A. Shishak, Chairman, NERC

The issues listed in agenda were discussed and the Members present resolved as follows:

1. The members present discussed and resolved that though the “Power Sector Reform and Restructuring in Nagaland” prepared and submitted by the International Management Institute (IMI), New Delhi has been partially accepted and implemented by the State government, It was once again emphasised that once the Corporatization in Power Sector is done in a true spirit and sense, then, and then only there can be proper growth in the Power Sector in the State of Nagaland.
2. The Members felt and were convinced that the topmost priority on Power Development is to be given on “Generation of Electricity”. Unless the State Government has her own generation worth mentioning, all the other awareness programmes will be something like cries in the wilderness in this power starved State, Nagaland.

Members present advised the Commission to continue the awareness creation activities through Public Awareness Creation Efforts (PACE) Programs, print and electronic media including publication of pamphlets,

booklets etc for both the Government and general consumer within the State depending on the necessity – priority and financial position.

3. Members present resolved to advise for Political will among the policy makers and those who are in Authority in respect of 180 MW Dikhu Hydro Electric Project; Also entrusted Mr. Nuklu Phom, SAC Member and Mr. Manlip Konyak, SAC Member to pursue for Land Negotiation Problem among the villagers. The Members also wanted to know the latest position of the 150 MW Tizu-Zungki Hydro Electric Project. The concerned Department must do the needful without delay and if need arises the SAC Members may be immediately made known for further action.
4. Members present resolved to approach the State Govt. for implementation of Standards of Performance Regulations, 2012 and Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum & Ombudsman Regulations, 2012 by the Department of Power, Nagaland (DPN). Further, resolved to approach the State Government for additional Man Power, enough spare Transformers to be kept in stock, Vehicles and maintenance fund for field staff, O&M for Power Projects etc for the DPN. The CGRF & Ombudsman Regulations are to be implemented because based on sub-section (5) of Section 42 of EA, 2003, the central Govt has also made Rule as mentioned in Rule 7 of the Electricity Rules 2005 for the Distribution Licensee.
5. The Members present perused the copy of the ARR & Tariff Petition for FY 2014-15 filed by the DPN and the following issues were raised:-

i. Increasing of Power Tariff every year, why?

Reply by DPN

Since 90% of Power is purchased from outside the State and Power Purchase cost is increasing every year, the Department is bound to hike by some nominal percentage every year.

- ii. **How much revenue is likely to be received? Whether the Deptt. has acted upon reducing T&D losses?**

Reply by DPN

Technical losses are inherent but Commercial losses are due to power theft, hooking, meter tempering etc. With prepaid metering and with the help of the Anti Power Theft Mobile Squad (APTMS), the Department is expecting around 80 crs as revenue for FY 2013-14 (excluding Power trading). Department is taking measures for reducing losses. After the R-APDRP Scheme is implemented properly, there will be reduction in losses and thereby it is expected to improve the revenue collection.

- iii. The consumers do not receive electricity bill on time and meter readers do not go to spot for reading. Bill payment Booth is limited, why? The Street Light should be replaced by Renewable Energy based Street Light.

Reply by DPN

The Department will look into the above mentioned issues and will do necessary and corrective measures. For the Street Light, in some selected towns/places, the department will also consult and discuss with the Directorate of New & Renewable Energy.

COMMON UNDERSTANDING

There were other important points and issues raised and shared among the Members present which are not reflected here. It was agreed that the relevant and related topics concerning certain policy matters of the State Government, to improve in quality of Power supply by the Licensee, protection and fulfillment of the consumer interest, genuine practical difficulties faced by the Department and also sometime the casual attitude of the Departmental Officers & Staff lacking seriousness at the appropriate time etc will be our continued concern which will be discussed further in the next SAC Meeting. On "Safety" measures, the Licensee and the Electrical Inspectorate must perform their duties as directed in the Regulation of the NERC.

As mentioned above, after thorough and elaborate discussions, the members present agreed upon and resolved to advise the Commission to finalise the Petition filed by the DPN for approval of ARR & Revision of Tariff for FY 2014-'15 by prudent scrutiny

so as not to tax the honest paying consumers to make up the deficiency in the management of the Power Sector such as, the DPN having large nos. of non-functional meters, short coming in billing process including having large nos. of unauthorized connection by 'hooking' etc. In fact, it is the honest and regularly paying consumers who are affected with tariff hike every year.

The 8th SAC Meeting was declared closed by the Chairman-cum-Member, NERC after adopting the aforesaid resolutions.

Sd/-

Er. D. A. SHISHAK

Chairman-cum-Member,
Nagaland Electricity Regulatory
Commission (NERC), Kohima.

Sd/-

P. SANI

Secretary
Nagaland Electricity Regulatory
Commission (NERC), Kohima.